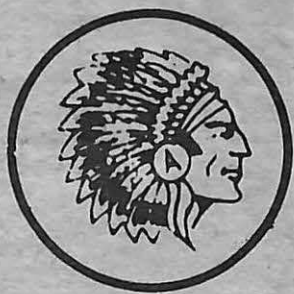


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AGAWAM

Advertiser-News

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Volume XXII Number 1

"Your Hometown Newspaper"

January 7, 1999

Retired Postmaster...



AGAWAM POSTMASTER WALTER CIASCHINI retired from his position on Thursday, December 31st. Congratulations, Walter! Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

After First Ballot...

Rheault Retains Presidency Of Town Council

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

Town Council President Donald M. Rheault easily won reelection to the council's top post for the ninth time at Monday night's meeting, despite a challenge from a former council president looking to unseat him.

Rheault did not have to put his leadership role in jeopardy by calling an election of officers during the second year of the council's two-year term of office.

According to information presented by Councilor Gina Letellier, "There is nothing in our rules that allows for a mid-term election," Ms. Letellier pointed out.

Rheault agreed that there are no provisions for the election of officers except when the council first takes office after a municipal election. However, Rheault said he would hold the election in keeping with the council's past practice ever since an improper resolution calling for a mid-term election was first introduced and accepted by the council in 1985.

On the first ballot, Rheault brushed aside Councilor Nancy Thompson's bid to regain the council presidency in a 9-2 vote. Voting to extend

SEE COUNCIL - Page 2...

A "Reflection" Of The Students' Life And Times...

Agawam High School's Mirror Celebrates 75th Anniversary

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

Last month, the Agawam High School *Mirror* celebrated its 75th anniversary as a reflection of the life and times of the students, the community, and the world with a look back at the highlights of three-quarters of a century of news, features, sports, entertainment, and editorials.

Editor-in-Chief Brenna McGinn sent the editorial staff combing through the archives to produce a timeline chronicling the major events at the school culled from the pages of back issues.

Some high points include a 1933 article telling how a boy named Joe abandoned cigarettes after being caught smoking in the bathroom and being told he could not play football; in 1944, junior and senior boys pledged to promote the welfare of the school; in 1955, (retired) music director Darcy B. Davis launched the music program; in 1964, the football team were the champions of the Western Mass. AA Conference; in 1971, Agawam started recycling; in 1987, AIDS became a topic of conversations at AHS; and in 1992, the *Mirror* received the highest honor as a medalist at the Columbia University Scholastic Press Association.

First Published In 1923

First published in December 1923 primarily as a literary magazine, the *Mirror* took its name from the reflection of the Junior/Senior High School on Main Street (now the Middle School) in the Westfield River. Over the years, especially since the High School relocated to its new home on Cooper Street, the *Mirror* has come to signify a reflection of the lives of the student body as well

as a reflection of the culture and society of the times, according to Brenna McGinn.

Looking back at the paper's history, *Mirror* editors point to many changes in the form and content of the student publication and wonder how future staffers will judge their efforts when the 100th anniversary rolls around in 25 years.

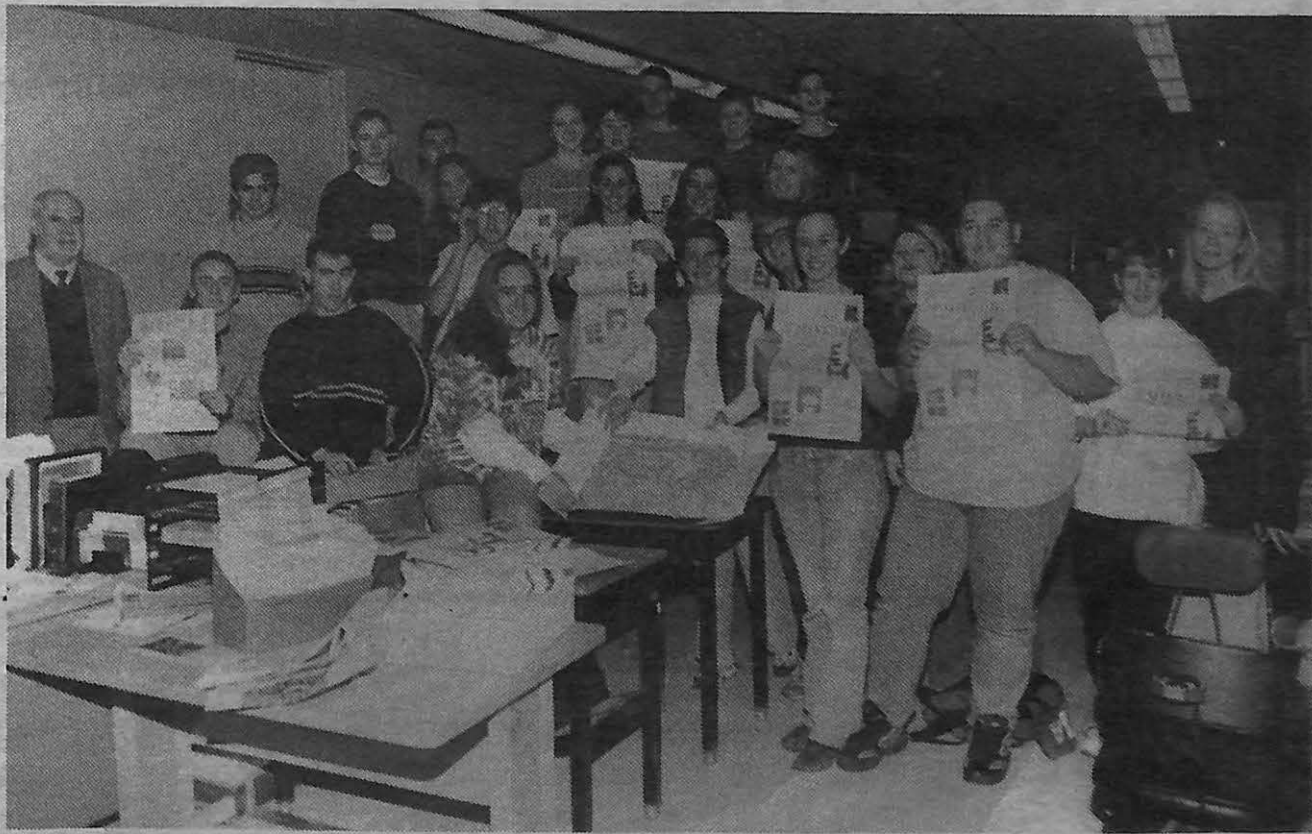
Computer Editor Tim Hooks hopes to reach a wider audience for the student publication through the *Mirror*'s web site. In its second year, the web page offers Internet surfers the chance to read some of the most important stories and editorials appearing in the *Mirror*.

"We're hoping to advertise our web page and get more people interested in it," Tim Hooks said. The address for the *Mirror* on-line is <http://members.aol.com/coy16/mirror.htm>.

On a visit during the college break, former Editor-in-Chief Jeanne O'Neil is still impressed with the quality of the paper's news reports. A sophomore at Amherst College, Jeanne noted, "I still think this paper is one of the best high school newspapers around. The caliber of the news articles is as good as what we're doing on the college's weekly paper."

As the *Mirror* advisor since 1989, Lawrence O'Brien said the staff members learned a great deal about the effect of local and national events on their school, especially during the World War II years when the paper began covering more news stories and editorials.

SEE MIRROR - "Education" Section...



THE 1998-1999 STAFF MEMBERS of AHS's *Mirror* (pictured above with their advisor, Mr. Lawrence O'Brien - far left) proudly hold up copies of their latest edition, which commemorated the school newspaper's 75th anniversary. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

COUNCIL - from Page 1...

Rheault's tenure in the leadership position for another year were council Vice-President Robert Magovern and Councilors Edward Caba, Robert Young, Gary Geiger, Gina Letellier, John Negrucchi, George Bitzas, Dennis Perry, and Rheault. Councilors Jill Simpson and Ms. Thompson were the two votes for Ms. Thompson.

Magovern won the unanimous support of the council in his unopposed bid for reelection as vice-president.

The council leadership promised their support for a project considered long overdue by both the council and the town administration: a new home for the Department of Public Works.

"If there is any disappointment in my year as council president, it is that we haven't addressed the DPW garage," Rheault said. "I'm going to stress with the Mayor that this is a priority with the council and hopefully, he'll come to the plate with a proposal."

Magovern said the site location and plans for a DPW garage should be in front of the council in 1999. Ms. Thompson asked Rheault to seek a written update or invite the Mayor to address the council regarding the administration's progress on a new facility for the public works department.

Looking back over his return to the council presidency after an eight-year hiatus, Rheault said he appreciated the professionalism exemplified by the current council. He noted that every issue that has come before the council has been evaluated on the basis of its merits rather than on the personalities involved.

Again stressing his intention of making decisions based on an evaluation of performance rather than on personalities, Rheault signaled a shake-up in the configuration of the council's standing sub-committees.

"There have been situations that warrant a few changes," Rheault said. "This is not on a personal basis, but for the good of the town. It's in the



DONALD RHEAULT



ROBERT MAGOVERN

town's best interest to have some new faces and new direction."

Urging the councilors to make their preferences for committee assignments known to him as soon as possible, Rheault said he would consult with Magovern in making the appointments.

In a unanimous vote, the council agreed with the recommendation of Rules Committee Chairman John Negrucchi to change the rules for the seating of councilors at their meetings. Beginning at their next meeting, the oldest councilor (currently, Caba) will be seated on the council president's left. The council vice-president will con-

tinue to occupy the chair to the president's right. The remainder of the council seats will be assigned by lottery each year.

"The rules committee was unanimous that out of respect for the senior council member, the third center seat should go to the senior member, who will serve as chair in the absence of the president and vice-president," Negrucchi explained.

Next month, the rules committee will begin a total review of the rules with a view toward making recommendations on updating the rules, according to Rheault.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Agawam Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Thursday, January 21, 1999 at 7:15 p.m. at the Faolin Peirce Community Room, Agawam Police Station, 681 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the petition of 10 registered voters for a proposed amendment to the Agawam Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 180, by adding a provision relative to delaying the demolition of historically significant buildings. A copy of the proposed zon-

**TOWN OF AGAWAM
PLANNING BOARD**

ing amendment can be obtained from the Agawam Planning Office or the Agawam Town Clerk's Office between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. in the Agawam Town Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA.

LEGAL NOTICE

BY ORDER OF:
Charles R. Calabrese, Chairman
Agawam Planning Board

Published: January 7, 1999

Our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon; however, we appreciate any articles, press releases, etc., that can be brought in on Mondays. Thank you!

* * *

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- Benjamin Disraeli



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Coors Extra Gold

\$11.49 (30 Pk. Cans)



Killian's Irish Red

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(12 Pk. Btls.)

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(12 Pk. Btls.)
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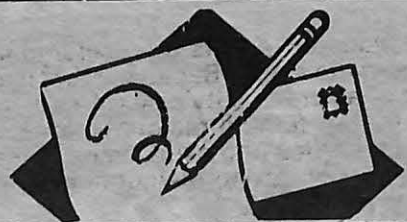
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Letters To The Editor

Donations Sought To Update Agawam High's Weight Room

To The Editor:

Dear Residents Of Agawam:

My name is Christopher Benjamin and I am a 1994 graduate of Agawam High and a 1998 graduate of Springfield College. I am a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist.

Recently, a co-ed strength and conditioning club began at the high school. The students in this club have an opportunity to weight train every day after school. At this time, there are close to 50 students participating in club programs.

Although the majority of the initial membership consists of track, football, lacrosse, and ski team members, the club invites any high school student to participate. It is my responsibility to design and implement programs for these teams and for any students who are interested in improving their physical fitness.

I am writing to you because we need your help. The weight room at the high school has a limited amount of outdated equipment. Although we must operate under the constraints of the Athletic Department budget, we can offer the student body a worthwhile, after-school, and supervised activity with your financial support. We are seeking donations from local businesses and residents. We have been encouraged by the support we have received to date.

Springfield College generously donated some exercise bikes and dumbbells, and the Athletic Department has allocated some start-up money in order to purchase some of the new equipment that is needed for our facility. The equipment is rather expensive and we do not have the funds to pay for them.

In order to bring our student-athletes to an acceptable fitness level, we need additional equipment. This is why I am asking the businesses, residents, and alumni of Agawam High School for their help. Any money that you can donate would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions concerning the weight room, please contact me at 786-7807.

Please make checks out to:

**Fitness Room
c/o Christopher Benjamin**

Please send checks to:

**Agawam High School
760 Cooper Street
Agawam, MA 01001**

The students of Agawam and I thank you. We hope you had a happy holiday season, and we wish you a healthy new year!

**Sincerely,
Christopher Benjamin, C.S.C.S.**

Let's Support AHS's Non-Smoking Students

To The Editor:

To The Parents Of Agawam High Students:

On January 12th, students from the high school representing the majority opinion, will be making an appeal to the School Committee to do something about smoking within the school. These students need both parents and citizens to support them in their request.

Take into consideration the problems smoking in school has created:

1. Many students are expelled from school because of repeated smoking violations.
2. Many students serve internal suspension because of smoking.
3. Many of the bathrooms are locked to stop the smoking in there, denying the use to others.
4. Many students don't focus in class and have lower grades because they're thinking about a smoke break.
5. The minority are infringing upon the rights of the majority.
6. It doesn't promote a clean or healthy environment for students to learn.
7. It entices others to try smoking by being present in the school.
8. It is a littering and fire hazard problem.

The bottom line is student smoking in school is illegal and doesn't belong there. This is not the first time this issue has surfaced. Please make the Superintendent, Mayor, and School Committee aware that we as parents and taxpayers want something done, too.

**Sandy and Ken Fleming
Feeding Hills**

AHS Seeks To Create More Partnerships With Businesses

To The Editor:

To The Business Community:

Agawam High School and Riverside Park have created a special, tailor-made partnership mutually beneficial to both organizations. The partnership is founded on certain key points:

1. The utilization of the services of the school's career center.
2. The screening of potential student employees based on grades, attendance, and citizenship.
3. The creation of internships to enhance career education.
4. The utilization of the services of the Visual and Performing Arts Department.
5. The establishment of a differentiated pay scale for qualified Agawam High School students.
6. The earmarking of scholarships for Agawam High School Renaissance students.
7. The provision of financial support for the career center.

Agawam High School is very much interested in the creation of additional unique partnerships with other businesses within the community. Please contact Mr. Joseph S. Zabielski, Principal of Agawam High School, if you are interested in discussing what the possibilities are. The phone number is 821-0521.

**Sincerely,
Agawam High School**

Zabielski Praises Partnership Between Riverside And AHS

To The Editor:

I would like to publicly thank Mr. Ronald Severt, Marketing Director, and other members of his staff for the newly-formed partnership between Riverside Park and Agawam High School.

What you have done is so profoundly significant for Agawam High School that words cannot sufficiently express my gratitude.

**Joseph S. Zabielski
Principal, Agawam High School**

Feeding Hills Residents Support Bachini As Golf Coach

To The Editor:

My husband and I felt compelled to write a letter to the editor after hearing of the possibility that Mr. Paul Bachini, the coach for the Agawam High School golf team, may not be rehired for the 1999 golf season at Agawam High School.

My husband and I have known Mr. Bachini for many years through affiliation with different sports within the Town of Agawam, but most recently, our son, who is a freshman at Agawam High School, was fortunate enough to be given the opportunity to join the golf team under Mr. Bachini's leadership and expertise.

Under his guidance, our son was able to perfect his game and gain the self-confidence necessary to achieve his goals. Mr. Bachini has been such a positive influence on our son, and also on the other members of the golf team, that we find it shocking that there is even the slightest possibility that he may not be rehired for the 1999 season.

Given the fact that many of the High School coaching staff have either resigned, retired, etc., etc., we find it quite upsetting that yet again, another excellent coach may also be forced to leave, and might I add, not because he would want to.

His dedication to the kids on the golf team never faltered, and he was able to bring this team through yet again, another successful season. We would ask that Kathleen McSweeney rethink her decision not to rehire Mr. Bachini.

It would be in the best interest for Agawam High School, but more importantly, for the kids who have grown under his leadership.

**Respectfully,
David & Nancy D'Amario
Feeding Hills**

Agawam Is Fortunate To Have Caring Emergency Personnel

To The Editor:

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Agawam Paramedic, Police, and Fire Department for their quick and efficient response on Monday, December 7th to attend to the aid of my husband.

Happy to say that he was in very capable and kind hands and was well cared for from the time I called 911 until he was attended to and admitted to the emergency room.

The people of Agawam are very fortunate and blessed to have such caring, considerate, and compassionate emergency response personnel.

**Sincerely,
Rose & Walter Monkiewicz
Feeding Hills**

"Friends" Of Senior Center Appreciate Public Support

To The Editor:

As members of "Friends of the Agawam Senior Center," we are proud of the efforts of "Friends" to benefit the Seniors and the Center.

This past year, we accomplished many things. Among them, we donated \$391 for a heavy duty cart to be used by the Activities Director; \$500 to repair one pool table, \$200 toward the Volunteer Dinner, \$6,306 for wall carpeting for the Senior Center, \$50 for the COA Golf Tournament, and \$150 for a plaque to honor the deceased members of the Senior Men's Pool Club.

We hope you will join us to help enhance the programs and services provided to Agawam's seniors. A membership application is included for your convenience. Please detach and keep the 1999 membership and return the application with your \$15 check.

Thank you for your support of "Friends."

**Barbara Gingras
Membership Committee
Friends of the Agawam Senior Center**

Addressing Issue Of Pheasant Hill Kids Who Walk To School

To The Editor:

Currently, there seems to be a problem getting school buses to service the kids at Pheasant Hill Village in Feeding Hills who attend Granger Elementary School.

The school is over a mile from the complex, and the school is considered within walking distance.

Some children are lucky enough to car pool. Other children have to walk up Springfield Street, which is the main drag with extremely heavy traffic. In the winter, the snow is plowed on the sidewalks and the children are forced to walk in the street.

SEE LETTERS - Page 5...



The Agawam Advertiser•News

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LETTERS - from Page 4...

I addressed this issue to Agawam's Mayor Johnson and the School Committee. I received courteous replies, but the problem still exists. Others have told me, in so many words, that this was my problem.

Am I to trust a five year-old to walk that distance to school, get to school on time, and more importantly, get there safe? I don't think so! As it stands now, my kindergartener has to take the public bus to school. Then someone has to meet him at the bus stop at another busy street right outside the complex.

With my having weak legs from a stroke, the journey to this bus stop is physically challenging. What happens next year when this child gets a ride neither to nor from school? To top it off, kids who live right outside the complex are picked up and dropped off every day for school.

Is this worth the safety of our children?

Sincerely,
Michelle Whitsett
Feeding Hills

"Three Musketeers" Should Honestly Vote On The Issues

To The Editor:

Whenever a council vote takes place, you can rest assured that the "THREE MUSKETEERS" always vote alike.

For example: when the council voted on the BERKSHIRE POWER OIL PERMIT, the vote was 3 to 8—the "three musketeers" voting in favor!

Do they honestly feel they are correct and the eight others incorrect? It reminds me of the soldier who wrote home to Mama and said he liked the Army, but when he went marching with his platoon, he was the only one in step!

It would be in the best interest of everyone for Ms. Thompson, Ms. Simpson, and Mr. Bitzas to change their voting pattern by honestly voting the issues—not the clique!

Joseph L. Pisano, Sr.
Agawam

Melconian Protests Method Of Medicaid Reimbursement

To The Editor:

Assistant Majority Leader Linda J. Melconian (D-Springfield) is pleased to announce that she delivered the following letter to the Division of Health Care

Finance and Policy to protest the method it is using to set the reimbursement rates of nursing homes whose patients rely on Medicaid.

Mrs. Louis Freedman, Commissioner
Division of Health Care Finance & Policy
Dear Commissioner Freeman:

I want to voice my strong opposition to the way in which the Division of Health Care and Finance & Policy is setting the Medicaid rates to pay for the care of the Commonwealth's elderly and disabled in nursing facilities.

Twelve-hundred senior citizens in 10 different facilities in my district will be adversely affected by your shortsighted decision. The facilities that will be affected are the Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing Care, the Country Estates of Agawam, Heritage Hall East, Heritage Hall West, Heritage Hall North, Heritage Hall South, Providence Care Center of Springfield, Ring Health Care Center-Ridgewood, Riverdale Gardens Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, and Willmasset West Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

The Division's Medicaid reimbursement formula simply does not work. It sets a cost-of-living increase cap of 2.4 percent. Because of a tight labor market and a strong economy, actual cost increases will be more than 4.0 percent. It limits the reimbursement rate for capital costs to 1993 costs in spite of the fact that facilities have to pay 1998 prices. Finally, it arbitrarily limits increases for a nursing home's total cost increases to 6 percent, ignoring the rising cost of nurses and the need of many facilities to make capital improvements.

Facilities in Hampden County and across Western Massachusetts are particularly hard hit by these rate limitations. Using 1993 prices to reimburse facilities for their capital costs is especially troubling. Many of these facilities have older physical plants that need to be upgraded so they can continue to provide a high level of care. Inadequate rates make these upgrades impossible and make it even harder for homes to take care of our elderly. Many care facilities in my district serve minority and low-income populations.

These facilities are dependent on Medicaid and have no way to recover the losses that they suffer when Medicaid is inadequately funded. These losses could cause homes to close, worsening the shortage of low-income housing for the elderly. This is not a problem solely in Western Massachusetts. Every Senate district in the state has care facilities that will not be able to recover their expenses due to inadequate nursing home funding.

But the real tragedy is that when nursing home

funding is inadequate, it is the senior citizens in these homes who suffer. Because labor makes up 70 percent of a care facility's costs, cutbacks will mean fewer staff to help residents do their daily chores, more harried and overworked nurses, and no time to simply talk to residents and listen to their concerns.

As Lois Holms, a resident of Heritage Hall South of Agawam, recently wrote to me, "I have no family, so the nursing assistants and support staff are very special to me. They work very hard at very difficult jobs and live paycheck to paycheck. Many of them care for children and are single parents. They really need that annual pay increase every year."

Inadequate cost-of-living increases can only mean that care facilities will lose these valuable nursing assistants as they are forced to find higher paying jobs. The loss of these workers would be an incalculable diminution in the quality of life and care for residents.

The harm to our elders is not just limited to loss of staff. Cutbacks mean that everything associated with the care facility has to become cheaper. The food will be worse. There will be no money to replace curling wallpaper and broken beds. Every aspect of the facility in which many seniors spend 24 hours a day, 365 days a year will be altered for the worse.

Everyone recognizes the need for fiscal responsibility in government. One of government's greatest responsibilities is to wisely manage the money that the public allocates to us in the form of taxes. At the same time, we also have a duty to provide for the most vulnerable members of society. We must not return to the days when getting old meant being pushed aside and forgotten. Senior citizens, whether they are in nursing homes, assisted care facilities, or living on their own, still have a great deal to contribute to society and we must treat them with the respect and dignity that they deserve.

It is vital that all nursing homes are reimbursed for all their real, allowable costs so that our senior citizens continue to receive the care they deserve. Naturally, we prefer to see an appropriate administrative solution to this pending crisis so that the Legislature is not forced to take action.

Sincerely,
Linda J. Melconian
Assistant Majority Leader

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Melconian Nominates Birmingham As State Senate President

On January 6, 1999, Senate Assistant Majority Leader Linda J. Melconian (D-Springfield) and the entire Great and General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts were sworn into office for the 1999-2000 legislative term.

Shortly thereafter, Senator Melconian was honored and privileged to nominate Thomas F. Birmingham to serve as President of the Massachusetts State Senate.

In her nominating speech, Melconian said, "Tom Birmingham's background and training led him in 1993 to become the father of education reform. As the author of the Education Reform Law, he gave the schools of the Commonwealth priority and insured that each has a foundation budget so that every student is given the basic resources necessary to learn."

"A laundry list of President Birmingham's actions in office cannot do justice to what he has achieved for education, but I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to mention some of his work for the students of the Commonwealth, both young and old," Melconian said.

"His commitment to education reform for K-12 is complemented by initiatives in pre-kindergarten and higher education. For the youngest students, the sons and daughters of working parents, he created an early childhood education program. For older students, he increased funding for adult basic education, provided for universal access to our state's community colleges and created an innovative workforce-training program."

Senator Melconian went on to say, "Theodore Roosevelt once listed his criteria for leadership. I believe they fit Tom Birmingham. He is a proven leader who never shies away from the arena; who sometimes may be marred by dust, sweat, and blood, who strives valiantly to do the deeds; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; and who knows in the end the triumph of high achievement."

"It is, indeed, my great honor to nominate Thomas F. Birmingham," she said, "as President of the Senate and to urge all my colleagues to vote for Tom Birmingham as our President."

The new legislative term, which began on January 6th, promises to be an exciting time on Beacon Hill. There are some new faces, unfinished business, and exciting legislation to fill the calendar for the session.

The Senate priorities include education, worker training, and health care initiatives. Senator Melconian looks forward to the challenges of the new session and wishes everyone a happy, healthy, and safe New Year.

Keenan's Office Offers Information On Winter Safety

State Representative Daniel F. Keenan has available through his district office a variety of publications that offer assistance and information about staying healthy and warm this winter season and all year long.

Programs That Help People in Western Massachusetts offers a guide and overview of federal, state, and local programs that assist people in the areas of energy, income, food, housing, health, legal, and financial matters.

Publications available include **Facts About Hypothermia, NU Neighbors, Programs That Help People in Western Massachusetts.**

The publications cover a range of topics from fuel assistance to ATM safety and the Senior Pharmacy Program.

To receive individual publications or a packet of information, contact Rep. Keenan's District office at (413) 786-4545.

"A Piece Of The News"

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

Historical Commission Proposes Ordinance

Local historians want to see a six months stay of execution before developers are allowed to demolish historically significant buildings in order to give the owner and the town enough time to find a buyer willing to preserve and rehabilitate the property.

Late last month, the Historical Commission submitted a proposed ordinance to Mayor Christopher C. Johnson that could delay the destruction of historic buildings for up to six months.

In a letter sent to the Mayor, Historical Commission Chairman David Cecchi and Vice-Chairman Richard Bellico wrote, "As the development of Agawam and Feeding Hills continues, it is the fear of the Historical Commission that we will lose even more of our historic resources through insensitive development than we already have."

Under the terms of the ordinance, the building inspector would be required to notify the Historical Commission upon receipt of an application for the demolition of a significant building. The commission will then have 14 days to determine if the building is listed in the Agawam Inventory of Historic Structures before a demolition permit could be issued.

The demolition of buildings determined to be historically significant could be delayed for six months (unless the commission is satisfied that there is no reasonable likelihood of finding someone willing to purchase and preserve the property, or the commission is convinced the owner has made a good faith effort to find a buyer willing to preserve the building without success).

"I think it's a positive ordinance," Johnson said. "This is not an automatic six months delay, rather this will give the owner and the town up to six months to look for other options or other uses for a historic structure."

"At any time during the six months period, the Historical Commission could decide there is no reasonable hope of saving the building. This is not delay for the sake of delay," added Johnson.

At its January 21st meeting, the Planning Board will hold a public hearing on the demolition delay ordinance. The hearing will begin at 7:15 p.m. in the Faolin Peirce Community Room at the Agawam Police Station.

If the Planning Board decides to sponsor the legislation, the ordinance will be sent to Town Council for review by the ordinance and zoning committees and a public hearing. As an amendment to the zoning code, the ordinance would require eight votes.

From The January 4th Town Council Meeting Used Car Lots Ordinance Approved

After months of tinkering, several council committee meetings, and two public hearings, the council approved the fifth amended version of a ordinance changing the rules governing used car lots.

Among the provisions of the new ordinance, the amount of space required for each car on display has been reduced from 300 to 200 square feet; there will be mandatory inspections by the building inspector (twice a year); and dealers will be subject to site plan review by the Planning Board if they seek to increase the number of cars for sale allowed by their licenses.

After the first version of the ordinance met with stiff opposition from the dealers, the council set up a series of committee meetings to attempt to hammer out a compromise that would be fair to the dealers while still protecting the best interests of the town.

While the number of dealers speaking against the ordinance dwindled over time, some dealers maintained that the used car business was being unfairly saddled with rules and regulations that deny them the full use of their properties and force them to follow rules that other small businesses are not required to comply with.

Several dealers steadfastly opposed the re-

quirement for site plan review, believing it would cost them \$1,500 for a certified site plan.

With no discussion, the council voted 9-2 in favor of the third and final reading of the ordinance, which had already received the endorsement of the Rules, Licensing and Ordinance subcommittees. Voting against were Councilors Edward Caba and Dennis Perry.

The impetus for changing the rules for used car dealers came after a surprise inspection of used car lots by the building inspector last March found 13 dealers had more cars on their lots than allowed by their licenses. Four weeks later, a second inspection found four dealers still violating their licenses by having too many cars on their lots.

During discussions with the licensing committee, several dealers indicated they wanted to reduce the amount of square footage required for each car and increase the number of cars allowed for sale on their lots.

Second Reading For Ordinance On Private Ways

With one councilor opposed, the second reading of an ordinance to amend the rules for accepting private ways was approved. Councilor Dennis Perry cast the only vote in opposition to the ordinance as recommended by the Street Acceptance Committee.

Chaired by Councilor Robert Young, the Street Acceptance Committee has agreed to an ambitious plan to deal with the backlog of more than 200 unaccepted streets that has been allowed to pile up over the last two decades, as well as to prevent new streets from being added to the list by requiring street acceptance as part of the Planning Board site plan review process.

The committee members are Councilors Nancy Thompson and Jill Simpson and the Superintendent of Public Works, John P. Stone. The committee is charged with holding public hearings, making recommendations to Town Council, and processing the petitions for street acceptance. Streets are accepted by a vote of the Town Council.

Under the terms of the new ordinance, petitions for street acceptance can be filed by the owners of 75 percent of the abutting lots, the superintendent of public works, or the Planning Board. Petitions for street acceptance are referred to the Street Acceptance Committee.

The committee must schedule a public hearing and display a plan showing the layout of the proposed public way. If no plan exists, the DPW will provide a cost estimate for preparing a plan and if there are no public or private funds to pay for the plan, the public hearing will be postponed indefinitely.

Following the public hearing, the committee will present the petition for street acceptance to the Mayor along with a summary of the public comments, as well as a report from the DPW superintendent detailing the costs to the town of accepting the street.

After a 30-day waiting period, the committee will review the public comments, the recommendations of the DPW and the Mayor, the street plan, and the estimate of eminent domain costs before making a written recommendation to the full council.

Until the town officially "accepts" it, a street is owned by the developer and then later by the homeowners who purchase the homes.

Unanimous Reappointments

Ronald A. Hebert was reappointed to the Board of Appeals to a term expiring January 1, 2002. Hebert has served on the Board since 1979.

Debra S. Curtis was reappointed as an alternate member of the Board of Appeals to a term expiring January 1, 2002.

Marilyn Curry was reappointed to the Whiting Street and Thomas Payne Fund for a term expiring December 31, 2001.

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Next Mtg. On January 11th...

Zoning Advisory Task Force Seeks Citizen Input

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

At its first meeting of the year, the Zoning Advisory Task Force will be putting together a list of interview questions to assist the panel in choosing an expert consultant to recodify the existing zoning regulations.

Task force members will decide on the questions that will be asked of each applicant for the job, but anyone may submit suggested questions for the committee to consider when they meet next Monday night, January 11th, at 7:30 p.m. in the Faolin Peirce Community Room at the Agawam Police Station.

The application deadline for the consulting position is January 20th, and the zoning advisory board expects to interview candidates next month.

Task Force Chair (Town Councillor) Gina Letellier said the committee welcomes participation from the public as well as from members of Town Council at their bi-monthly meetings.

Ms. Letellier said anyone wishing to submit questions for the board's consideration can bring their questions to the meeting or drop them off at the Planning Department at Town Hall in advance of Monday's meeting.

Last year, the Zoning Advisory Board meetings alternated between the Community Rooms at the Agawam Library and the Police Station, but board Secretary (Town Councillor) Robert Young has arranged for all the meetings to be held at the Police Station in 1999. Typically, the board meets on the second and third Mondays of the month so as not to conflict with Town Council meetings.

Last month, the board members finished their initial review of the existing zoning code with a discussion of some of the options to consider (when revising the rules governing what type of development is allowed in the industrial zones).

Drawing Up A List Of Allowed Industrial Uses...

Building Inspector Dominic Urbinati suggested drawing up a list of allowed industrial uses with all other types of development to be allowed only with a special permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). Advisory board Vice-Chairman (Attorney) Anthony Bonavita suggested a list of what is prohibited with all other uses requiring a special permit from the ZBA.

Planning Director Deborah S. Dachos said it would be better to have a list of prohibited uses rather than force all industries to seek a ZBA special permit.

"Industries won't come to Agawam if they have to come to the ZBA," Ms. Dachos predicted. "There are many different ways of doing this. Maybe we should rely on the consultant we hire to tell us how other communities are doing this."

Other issues under discussion included combining the two industrial zones, A and B, under the less restrictive setback requirement of 40 feet currently in place for Industrial A rather than the 75-foot setback required in the Industrial B zone; regulating the height of signs; banning billboards and temporary signs; and clarifying the rules for political signs.

After discussing some of the options to help prevent more of the town's historic buildings from falling under the wrecker's ball, the board members came to a consensus to direct the consultant they will hire next month to look into ways to protect historic structures.

Ms. Dachos said the Historical Commission was preparing to bring forward a proposal to assist in the preservation of historic buildings, but Bonavita said the commission's efforts would not prevent the Zoning Advisory Task Force from putting together their own recommendations.

See "A Piece Of The News" (Page 6) for more details on the Historical Commission's proposal.

* * *

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ADVERTISER NEWS

* * *

Fire Wise...

by Fire Chief David Pisano

Road Rules For Emergency Vehicles

The Agawam Fire Department reminds motorists that the law requires they pull to the right-hand curb to allow emergency vehicles to pass. Failure to do so can cause serious accidents or delays in arriving at the scene of an emergency.

When you hear sirens or see red lights, pull to the right side of the road and stop. If you cannot move right, move in any direction that will allow the emergency vehicle through. Look first before moving. If there is no place to move, sit tight.

Following an emergency vehicle may seem exciting, but, in reality, is dangerous both to the emergency personnel and to yourself.

Emergency vehicles often have to stop sudden-

ly, and someone following too close could become involved in an accident and emergency personnel could be injured when attempting to get out of their vehicles to respond to the call. Please heed the warning posted on the back of most fire engines which states that vehicles behind them should be at least 50 feet behind them.

If you are a pedestrian and hear sirens, stay on the curb. Do not step into the street, even after the emergency vehicle has passed. There may be more following at a distance.

Keep children close to you. They may try to dart out to see the fire truck or ambulance.

For further information, contact the Agawam Fire Department at 786-2662.

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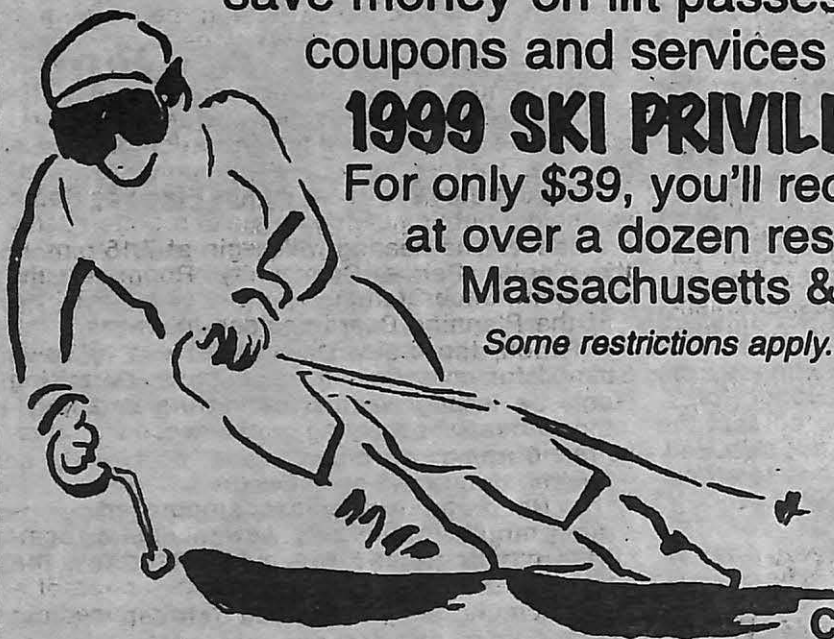
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Veterans' Corner...

Clarification On Some Legislation Passed In 1998

by Ruth C. Bitzas

Veterans' Agent — 786-0400, Ext. 236/237

• I'm sure many of you are aware of the annual annuity for Gold Star Parents that became effective July 1, 1998, but did you know that each parent is eligible to receive the annuity? Each parent may file in their own right, whether they live together or are divorced.

• The state now will reimburse cities and towns 75 percent of the cost of grave marker flags that are used to decorate the graves of veterans every Memorial Day. Recently, we placed the amount of our flag order on our state return to receive the first 75 percent amount. The reimbursement figure will be received on the town's cherry sheet sometime next year.

• Also, the state Department of Veterans' Services has advised that there are many veterans who have not filed for the annual \$1,500 annuity for veterans in receipt of service-connected disabilities rated at 100 percent or who are in receipt of the benefit of "Unemployability," which entitles them to eligibility for annuity.

Remember, too, that if you have a service-connected disability rated at 10 percent or greater or in receipt of the Purple Heart, you are entitled to a real estate tax abatement. Also, DAV widows could be entitled.

• Burial benefits for indigent veterans has been increased from \$1,500 to \$2,000 for a burial not exceeding a funeral cost of \$3,000. The state is also allowing 60 days to apply for the benefit rather than the previous 30 days. Contact Veterans' Services with any questions.

• The legislature also approved \$10 million to renovate the battleship USS Massachusetts (a museum in the water in Fall River).

• Also funded was \$10,000 for the Korean War Veterans' Association to take care of the official state memorial to that war at the old Charlestown (Boston) Navy Yard.

• Included in funding is \$14,000 (to be combined with other funds) to complete the POW/MIA Eternal Flame at the Bourne National Cemetery.

HONOR ROLL:

This week, we are publishing the names of those Agawam Vietnam veterans whose last names begin with the letter "D" and who are to be included on the proposed Agawam Honor Roll.

If you have any questions, please contact the Veterans Services' office at Agawam Town Hall, 786-0400, ext. 236/237. My best wishes to all our readers for a happy and healthy 1999!

VIETNAM VETERANS - "D"

William P. D'Amato, Alan A. Daigneau, Allan W. Daigneau, Robert E. Daigneau, Thomas G. Daigneau, Donald S. Darbe, James S. Davidson, Barry T. Davilli, Donald F. Davis, Robert J. Davy, Ronald E. Dawson, Nicholas DePalma, David L. Dean, Joyce L. DeFalco.

Robert J. DeGeorge, David Delancey, Gerald L. DelNegro, Richard J. DelBarba, Paul E. Delskey, Jr., John J. DeLucchi, Leo DeLucchi, Steven A. DeMatos, James S. Dimichele, Ruth H. Dempsey, Frederick S. Depka, Alain J. Dermine, Stanley T. Desmond, Jr., Leonard A. DesRosiers, Jr., Roger W. Dezielle.

Thomas E. Dias, Joseph S. DiDonato, Jr., Richard A. DiLullo, Russell M. Dimock, Robert G. Dionne, Frank F. Disco, Raymond A. Dix, Gary G. Donnellan, Richard T. Donovan, Bernard J. Drewnowski, Gerald Drewnowski, Raymond S. Drewnowski, Stanley M. Drewnowski, Jr., William J. Drewnowski.

Thomas E. Drummond, Stanley F. Drzyzga, Jr., William J. Drzyzga, Gary A. Dubour, Timothy E. Duclos, Richard V. Duga, William J. Dugan, Kenneth C. Dunlop, Jr., Richard E. Dunn, Larry M. Dupont, Mark E. Duquette, Richard J. Durant, Peter P. Dymerski.

Neal Presents Flag To Captain Leonard House



U.S. REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD NEAL recently presented a flag that flew over the Capitol in Washington, D.C. to the Captain Charles Leonard House. From left to right: State Representative Daniel Keenan, Congressman Neal, Agawam Town Clerk Richard Theroux, and James Loomis (president of the Leonard House Board of Trustees). Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Agawam Fire Dept. Announces Open Burning Guidelines

The Department of Environmental Protection has designated January 15, 1999 through May 1, 1999 for open burning. Certain guidelines have been established and must be adhered to.

The Agawam Fire Department will issue and monitor each permit on a daily basis. Permits will only be issued weather permitting and only to those locations meeting guidelines.

1. Burning of brush, cane driftwood, and forestry debris will be allowed.

2. No grass, hay, leaves, stumps, paper products, trash of any kind will be allowed. CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED AT ANY TIME.

3. Burning shall take place between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

4. NO COMMERCIAL OR INSTITUTIONAL BURNING PERMITS WILL BE ISSUED.

5. Burning shall be at a location greater than 75 feet from any dwelling or structure.

6. Outside burning for cooking purposes is allowed.

7. NEVER USE GASOLINE TO START THE FIRE.

8. Someone must attend the fire until completely extinguished. Have water supply handy at all times.

ANY FIRE WHICH IS DETERMINED TO BE A HEALTH HAZARD OR NUISANCE, WILL BE REQUIRED TO BE EXTINGUISHED IMMEDIATELY.

All permits will be issued from Fire Headquarters, 800 Main Street, Agawam. The phone number is 786-2662.

PLEASE DO NOT USE THE "911" NUMBER TO CALL FOR PERMITS.

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* * *

Keenan Sworn In To Third Term

For State Representative Daniel F. Keenan, Wednesday, January 6, 1999 marked the beginning of his third term in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. On Wednesday, Keenan joined 159 of his colleagues for the official swearing in ceremonies at the State House in Boston.

"Time really does go by fast when you are doing something you enjoy," expressed Keenan.

Keenan's priorities for the 1999-2000 session include maintaining fiscal discipline, and elevating the level of education for all of our children in the Commonwealth. According to Keenan, these two priorities go hand in hand.

"Over the past six years, by exercising fiscal discipline, the legislature has promoted a healthy business environment while concentrating on the core government functions, most importantly education. We have made K-12 education a financial priority by investing \$6 billion annually for our children's education," Keenan stated.

"Our priority for the coming years must be to raise the level of education to meet the challenges of the next century," he continued.

Keenan anticipates a busy and productive 1999-2000 session, and is anxious to continue his efforts for the communities he represents.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Agawam Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, January 14, 1999 at 7:30 PM in the Faolin Peirce Community Room, Agawam Police Station, 681 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the petition of the Massachusetts Department of Veteran Services for work to be performed on Main Street, subject to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.

By Order of Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
Agawam Conservation Commission
Published: January 7, 1999

— ADVERTISER NEWS —

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— Agawam Obituaries —

Ernest C. Walters

Ernest C. Walters, 75, of School Street, Agawam, a 25-year Supervisor at United Technologies, Bosch Auto Division, until he retired in 1980, died on Saturday, January 2nd, in his home.

Born in Springfield, he was an Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, and an Agawam resident for the past 60 years.

He previously worked as a Tool & Dye maker for H.E. Dickerman Toolmakers, and earlier for tool & dyemaker engineering for the Westinghouse Corp. as a model maker and supervisor for 18 years.

He was a life member of the Longmeadow Lodge of Masons, a member of the Connecticut Consistory, Scottish Rite No. 32, a member of the Melha Shrine Temple, Hadji Division, the American Legion Post No. 462, and the New Voice Club of Springfield.

The husband of 45 years to the late Helen E. (Larson) Walters, who died in 1997, he is survived by two sons, Jeffrey B. Walters of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Dana C. Walters, USN (Retired), of Agawam; a daughter, Karen Melloni of Agawam; a brother, Richard M. Walters of Quemado, New Mexico; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

A memorial service and burial were scheduled to be held privately. Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home of Agawam was in charge of the arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Agawam Permanent Firefighters Ambulance Fund, 800 Main Street, Agawam, MA 01001.

Henry R. Stieg

Henry R. Stieg, 89, of Suffield Street, Agawam, and formerly of Hartford, CT, died recently at Mercy Hospital in Springfield.

He was a retired precision gage inspector for the Pratt & Whitney Small Tool Division in West Hartford.

Born in Hartford, he attended Northeastern University School of Engineering.

He was active in the Unity Lodge Local 405, United Auto Workers as a department steward for 24 years and a recording secretary and trustee for 18 years.

He was a member of Central Baptist Church in Hartford where he was a Sunday School teacher, deacon, and served on numerous church committees.

He was one of the founders and charter members of the Connecticut Electric Trolley Museum at Warehouse Point, CT. He served as treasurer for the National Railway Historical Society for 40 years and was a member of Branford Electric Railway Association and the Electric Railroad Association.

He leaves his wife, the former Helen Chaplin; a son, Karl of Agawam; two sisters, Ethel Wadstrom of Rocky Hill, CT, and Alice Chmielorz of Hollywood, FL; and two grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Ahern Funeral Home in Unionville, CT, with burial in Center Cemetery in Burlington.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Memorial Fund, Central Baptist Church, 457 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06103.

Theodore Komorowski

Theodore Komorowski, 76, of 56 Laurel Road, West Springfield, died recently at Mercy Hospital in Springfield.

He was a layout engineer for Combustion Engineering of Windsor, CT, and retired in 1987. He worked previously in California.

Born in Holyoke, he spent most of his life in California before moving to Agawam in 1968. He moved to West Springfield in 1987.

He was a World War II Army veteran, a communicant of St. Thomas Church, and a former member of Sacred Heart Church in Feeding Hills.

He belonged to the Knights of Columbus in West Springfield, the Polish-American Club in Chicopee, the Jewish Community Center in Longmeadow, the Blandford Ski Club, the Springfield Elks Club, and the Sabre National Indian School.

He was a founder of the Ski Club of America. He won medals for swimming and a citation for saving a boy's life at the Holyoke Dam.

He leaves his wife, the former Helen R. Mahoney; two sons, Robert J. and Walter T., both at home; and a sister, Helen Mysliwy of Wilbraham.

The funeral was held at Toomey-O'Brien Funeral Home and the church, with burial at the convenience of the family.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 53 Capital Drive, West Springfield, MA 01089.

Cynthia L. Collins

Cynthia L. Collins, 45, of 22 Merrell Drive, Agawam, a teacher at the Baptist Village Christian Academy in East Longmeadow, died recently at home.

Born in Springfield, she was a lifelong resident of Agawam.

She was a 1971 graduate of Agawam High School and a 1975 graduate of Cedarville College in Cedarville, Ohio, with a bachelor's degree in physical education.

She was a member of the Grace Baptist Church in Feeding Hills.

She leaves her husband, William C. Collins; a son, William L., and a daughter, Leah E. Collins, both at home; her mother, Hazel (Wilcox) Egan of Agawam; and two sisters, Caron Evard and Sharon Wiggins, both of Springfield.

The funeral was held at Agawam Funeral Home, with burial in Springfield Street Cemetery, Feeding Hills.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Collins Family Memorial Fund, in care of Westfield Savings Bank, 655 Main Street, Agawam, MA 01001.

Alice R. Collins

Alice R. (Arieti) Collins, 90, of Agawam, and formerly of Druids Lane and Hampden Village, both in West Springfield, died recently at a local nursing home.

She was a 35-year clerk for Martins Laundry in Springfield and for Smith & Wesson Corp. of Springfield.

Born in Springfield, she was a graduate of Commerce High School.

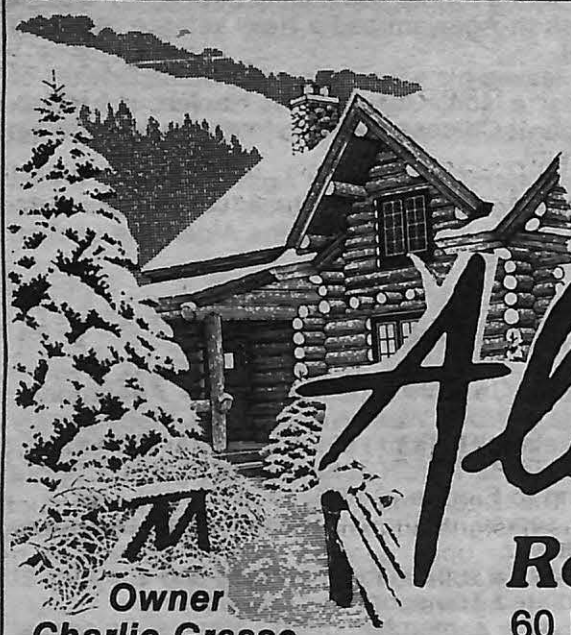
She lived in West Springfield for many years before moving to Agawam several years ago.

SEE OBITUARIES - Page 10...



Cabin Fever?

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OBITUARIES - from Page 9...

She was a past president of Daughters of Columbus Lodge 44 of West Springfield and a charter member of the West Springfield Gridiron Moms in the 1950's.

She also belonged to the West Springfield Senior Center.

Her husband, Carl A. Collins, died in 1987.

She leaves a son, Allan P. of Feeding Hills; a daughter, Carole Sauter of Port Saint Lucie, Florida, and formerly of West Springfield; a brother, Albert Arieti of Springfield; a sister, Florence Blackwelder of Enfield; 10 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home and St. Thomas Church in West Springfield. Burial was in St. Thomas Cemetery, also in West Springfield.

George J. Breveglerei

George J. Breveglerei, 85, of Southwick, died recently at Mercy Hospital in Springfield.

He worked for the state Department of Public Works and retired in 1975.

Born in Sagamore, he lived in Springfield from 1918 to 1987 and graduated from Chestnut Street High School.

He lived in West Springfield and Feeding Hills before moving to Southwick recently.

He was an Army staff sergeant in World War II and a communicant of the Sacred Heart Church in Feeding Hills.

He belonged to the Springfield Golden Agers, the Adriatic Club, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and American Legion Post 430.

He leaves his wife, the former Margarita A. Morris; a son, David G. of Holyoke; a daughter, Kathleen M. Landers of Feeding Hills; a brother, Victor of Springfield; and two grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home of Agawam and the church, with burial in St. Michael's Cemetery in Springfield.

John L. Bianco

John L. Bianco, 74, of Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, died recently at home.

He was the proprietor of Bianco & Sons Bicycle Center for 20 years and Bianco's Magic Shop for the past seven years, both in Feeding Hills. He also was the proprietor of Bianco's Greenhouse and Capitol Amusements, both formerly of Springfield.

Born in Springfield, he was a World War II Navy veteran.

He moved to Feeding Hills 25 years ago.

His wife, the former Anna Stellato, died in 1987.

He leaves two sons, Louis J. of Longmeadow and Anthony J. of Feeding Hills; a brother, Louis of Wilbraham; and a granddaughter.

The funeral was held at Sacred Heart Church, with burial in Springfield Street Cemetery, Feeding Hills. Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home of Agawam was in charge of the arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, 171 Union Street, Springfield, MA 01105.

Armando J. Lorenzatti

Armando J. Lorenzatti, 78, of 663 Main Street, Agawam, died recently in Springfield's Baystate Medical Center.

He was a 35-year tree surgeon for the Westfield Department of Public Works and retired in 1990.

He also worked part-time for Cascio Landscaping and was the caretaker of the Captain Leonard House for the past six years.

He was born in Springfield and lived in Agawam for 25 years.

He leaves his wife, the former Clara Magagnoli; two sons, Michael of Petaluma, California, and Mark of Russell; two daughters, Carol Ann Vail and Christine Lorenzatti, both of Westfield; two brothers, Augusto and Andrew, both of Westfield; four sisters, Mary Stefanik, Sylvia Huff, Theresa Cowles, and Celestina Kaslauskas, all of Westfield; and six grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home, with burial in Springfield Street Cemetery.

Gerald Touchette

Gerald Touchette, 80, of Chardom Place, Naples, Florida, died recently at home.

He was a retired foreman for Agri-Mark Corp.

Born in St. Armands, Quebec, he lived in Feeding Hills for many years before moving to Naples.

He was a former communicant of St. Theresa's Church in Agawam and a Navy veteran of World War II.

He leaves his wife, the former Stella Drinsek of Naples; a son, Gerald R. of Naples; a brother, Joseph of Chicopee; and a sister, Ida Mae Belkin of Miami.

The funeral was held at Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home and the church, with burial in St. Rose de Lima Cemetery in the Aldenville section of Chicopee.

Robert J. Ratcliffe

Robert Joseph Ratcliffe, 75, of Auburndale, Florida, a World War II Navy veteran, died recently at Lakeland Regional Medical Center in Florida.

Born in Hartford, CT, he lived in Agawam before moving to Florida in 1995.

He served in the Navy aboard the battleship USS Iowa.

He was a supervisor of printing and supplies at Associated Transport Trucking Co.

He was a member of St. Alban's Episcopal Church.

He leaves his wife, Eleanore Ratcliffe; two

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hometown
news with
us...
AAN!!!*

daughters, Karen Ratcliffe of Enfield, CT, and Gloria Bousquet of Agawam; a brother, Edwin of Auburndale; three sisters, Jeanne Beaudoin of Auburndale, Nancy Grover of Newington, CT, and Carol Dolphin of Canton, CT; 10 grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

Kersey Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements, and a memorial service was held at the church.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 202 Ponototoc Plaza, Auburndale, Florida.

Leda D. Plant

Leda D. (Lachapelle) Plant, 98, of 55 Cooper Street, Agawam, died recently at a local nursing home.

She was a 40-year tire builder at U.S. Rubber Co. in Chicopee and retired in 1964.

She was a communicant of St. George's Church in Chicopee Falls and was active in clubs at the Bury Apartments in Chicopee and the senior citizens bowling league.

Her husband, Theodore Plant, died in 1962, and a son, Roland Plant, predeceased her.

She leaves a son, Donald of Denver, Colorado; a daughter, Barbra Giswold of Agawam; 16 grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and great-great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Grise Funeral Home and the church, with burial in Calvary Cemetery, all in Chicopee.

Memorial contributions may be made to any charity.

Josephine H. Lango

Josephine H. Lango of 141 Rowley Street, Agawam, died recently in a local nursing home.

She was an executive secretary at the former H.R. Huntting Co. of Springfield for many years and retired in 1978.

Born in Springfield, she lived in Agawam all her life.

She was a communicant of St. Anthony of Padua Church and secretary-treasurer of the Tri-Parish Bowling League.

She leaves a brother, Albert of Springfield, and a sister, Amelia Lango of Agawam.

The funeral was held at Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home and the church, with burial in St. Michael's Cemetery, Springfield.

Memorial contributions may be made to the church at 103 Bridge Street, Agawam, MA 01001, or any other charity.

SEE OBITUARIES - Page 11...

Decisions.

Decisions.

Decisions.

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OBITUARIES - from Page 10...

Michael C. Sielawa

Michael C. Sielawa, 36, of 3 Beekman Place, Agawam, died recently at home.

He was a technical group leader at Milton Bradley for the past 15 years.

He was born in Webster and was a resident of Agawam for the past three years.

He was a graduate of Chicopee Comprehensive High School.

He leaves his fiancée, Laura Marek; three sons, Michael C. Jr., Christopher J.R., and Timmothy R., all of North Adams; five brothers, Omer and Joseph, both of Chicopee, Paul of Springfield, Edward of West Springfield, and Eugene Boisvert of Springfield; two sisters, Sharon Sielawa Livingston of Windsor Locks, CT, and Susan Sielawa of Springfield; and his mother, Constance Boisvert of Springfield.

A memorial service was held at the Sampson, Orchard Funeral Home in Indian Orchard, with burial at the convenience of the family.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Children of Michael C. Sielawa, Sr. Memorial College Fund, Springfield Institution for Savings, 40 Springfield Street, Agawam, MA 01001, or Cam Neely Foundation, 750 Washington Street, P.O. Box 0716, Boston, MA 02111.

Kathryn A. Zymroz

Kathryn A. Zymroz, 49, of 20 Ivan Street, Springfield, died recently at Holyoke Hospital.

She worked for Ring Nursing Home as a registered nurse for 15 years. She also owned Athena Health Care, and was a former administrator of the Springfield Visiting Nurse Association.

Born in Norfolk, Virginia, she was a graduate of Agawam High School and Hartford School of Nursing.

She leaves a brother and sister-in-law, Chester and Eileen Zymroz of West Springfield; and a long-time friend, Ronald Everson of Springfield.

The funeral was held at Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home, Agawam, and in St. John the Evangelist Church, with burial in Agawam Center Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to any charity.

Ethelyn C. Thomas

Ethelyn C. (Anderson) Thomas, 81, of 42 Woodside Drive, Agawam, died recently in Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

She worked for the Town of Agawam for 20 years in the school cafeteria department, retiring in 1983.

She was born in New Sweden, Maine, lived in Springfield, and moved to Agawam in 1957.

She was a member of First Congregational Church in West Springfield, where she was a deaconess.

She was a member of the VASA Order of America.

She leaves her husband, David J. Thomas; two sons, James D. of Springfield and Wayne E. of Agawam; and three granddaughters, Katherine, Elizabeth, and Sarah Thomas, all of Springfield.

The funeral was held at Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home, with burial in St. Michael's Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to First Congregational Church, 20 Lathrop Street, West Springfield, MA 01089, or to any charity.

* * * * *

For photo coverage in The AAN, call photographer Jack Devine at 789-0053; however, please give Jack at least 48 hours' notice prior to your event.

* * * * *

DPW Reminds Residents Of Winter Parking Regulations

The Agawam Department of Public Works wishes to advise residents of the ordinances regulating on-street winter parking between November 15th and April 15th.

The Department of Public Works has been empowered to declare on-street parking bans for the purpose of snow and ice removal and tow any vehicle parked on streets in violation of these bans. Any person whose vehicle is removed is responsible for the cost of towing and storage and is subject to an additional fine in the amount of \$25.

In order for the Department to efficiently and effectively clear snow, it is important that no vehicles be parked on the streets. Parked vehicles result in ridges of snow and ice that reduces the travelled width of the roadway and endangers the public. Costly repaving is required to clear the residue. Residents should be forewarned that the Department will remove vehicles violating any parking ban.

Residents are also advised that it is their responsibility to remove snow and control ice on the sidewalks in front of their homes and businesses. Sidewalks must be cleared of snow within 24 hours of the end of a storm.

The Department of Public Works is only empowered to plow sidewalks on major streets where children are required to walk to school.

Remember, our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter... AAN!!!

* * *

Agawam Youth Lacrosse Association

1999 Schedule Of Events

- Boys, 14 And Under Team — \$45 Registration Fee, Own Equipment Needed.
- Boys, 12 And Under Team — \$45 Registration Fee, Own Equipment Needed.

Sign-Ups Being Taken Now!

At The Agawam Recreation Department

- Winter Lacrosse Clinic For Boys, 14 And Under — March 8-10, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Agawam High School.
- \$20 Registration Fee — Paid At The Door.



Families



LAST SEPTEMBER, Jeanne A. Carpenter (left), president of the Epilepsy Foundation of America, presented a National Community Awareness Award to Carol Pietroniro (center) and Kim Martel (right).

Calendar Of January Events At The Agawam Senior Ctr.

Friday, January 8th: 10:00 a.m., Tai Chi; 1:00 p.m., Duplicate Bridge, Cribbage, and Organ Lessons.

Monday, January 11th: 9:30 a.m., Rug Design; 1:00 p.m., Bingo.

Tuesday, January 12th: 9:00 a.m., Exercise; 9:30 a.m., Sewing/Knitting; 12:30 p.m., Movie and Ladies' Pool; 1:00 p.m., Computer; 1:30 p.m., Open Art Studio; 2:00 p.m., Atty. Alan Ferrigno; 3:00 p.m., Chorus.

Wednesday, January 13th: 9:30 a.m., Tap Class; 10:00 a.m., S.A.L.T.; 10:15 a.m., Jazz; 1:30 p.m., Golden Agers (Chapter 1).

Thursday, January 14th: 9:00 a.m., Food & Fuel Assistance, Exercise, and Podiatry with Dr. Salem (by appointment); 1:00 p.m., Line Dancing and Pitch; 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., Blood Pressure; 2:30 p.m., Melody Band.

Friday, January 15th: 10:00 a.m., Tai Chi; 1:00 p.m., Duplicate Bridge, Cribbage, and Organ Lessons.

Monday, January 18th: Senior Center Closed (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day).

Tuesday, January 19th: 9:00 a.m., SHINE Rep. and Exercise; 9:30 a.m., Sewing/Knitting; 12:30 p.m., Movie and Ladies' Pool; 1:00 p.m., Computer Class; 1:30 p.m., Open Art Studio; 3:00 p.m., Chorus; 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., Caregivers Support Group.

Wednesday, January 20th: "National Hug Day"; 9:30 a.m., Tap Class; 10:15 a.m., Jazz; 1:30 p.m., Golden Agers (Chapter 2).

Thursday, January 21st: Foxwoods Trip (\$16); 9:00 a.m., Food & Fuel Assistance, Foot Care Nurse, and Exercise; 10:00 a.m., ASGA/Calligraphy; 1:00 p.m., Pitch and Line Dancing; 2:30 p.m., Melody Band.

Friday, January 22nd: 10:00 a.m., Tai Chi; 1:00 p.m., Duplicate Bridge, Cribbage, and Organ Lessons.

Monday, January 25th: 9:30 a.m., Mercy Hearing Van and Rug Design; 1:00 p.m., AARP; 6:00 p.m., Mental Health Support Group.

Tuesday, January 26th: 9:00 a.m., Exercise; 9:30 a.m., Sewing/Knitting; 12:30 p.m., Movie and Ladies' Pool; 1:00 p.m., Computer; 1:30 p.m., Art and Atty. Deegan; 3:00 p.m., Chorus; 4:00 p.m., COA.

Wednesday, January 27th: 9:30 a.m., Tap Class; 10:15 a.m., Jazz; 1:30 p.m., Golden Agers (Chapter 1).

Thursday, January 28th: 9:00 a.m., Food & Fuel Assistance and Exercise; 10:45 a.m., Health Focus; 1:00 p.m., Pitch and Line Dancing; 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., Blood Pressure; 2:30 p.m., Melody Band.

Friday, January 29th: 10:00 a.m., Tai Chi; 1:00 p.m., Duplicate Bridge, Cribbage, and Organ Lessons.

Dinner Dance To Support Summer Camp For Kids With Epilepsy

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

This summer, the first camp for kids with epilepsy in the state will welcome youngsters for a week of swimming, hiking, and just plain doing all the things kids usually do at summer camp.

For many of the children, the camp will be their first overnight away from home and their first chance at the types of activities many consider to be rites of childhood passage, like telling ghost stories and sitting around a campfire.

Setting up a camp for children with varying levels of epilepsy, many of whom also are challenged with severe disabilities, seems like a daunting task. But not for the dedicated group of friends and families of children and adults with epilepsy who meet twice a month at the Feeding Hills home of Vincent & Carol Pietroniro to map out their strategies for raising awareness of epilepsy and raising money for research.

Next month, the Western Massachusetts Epilepsy Awareness Committee (WMEAC) will sponsor its Fifth Annual Dinner Dance with the proceeds going to benefit Wee Kan Tu Camp for Champs, the first camp for children with epilepsy in Massachusetts.

Featuring D.J. Ross MacDonald, the dance will be held at Chez Josef on Saturday, February 27th, from 6:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. The evening will include a silent auction and an award ceremony honoring Dr. George Howard as this year's recipient of the "Inspiration for a Cure Award." Tickets are available from committee members at a cost of \$25 per person.

A grass roots organization founded by Mrs. Pietroniro (whose 12 year-old son, Michael, developed epilepsy as a two year-old), WMEAC has raised more than \$75,000 for epilepsy research over the last five years. Last month, the group presented a \$7,000 check to Dr. Anthony H. Jackson, chief of Pediatric Neurology at Baystate Medical Center Children's Hospital in Springfield.

In September, Mrs. Pietroniro and Kim Martel traveled to San Antonio, Texas, to accept the National Community Awareness Award from the

Epilepsy Foundation of America on behalf of WMEAC for their work to help children with epilepsy.

Camp Staffed By Volunteer Doctors And Nurses...

Sponsored by the Western Massachusetts Epilepsy Awareness Committee, Wee Kan Tu Camp for Champs, located in Duxbury, will be staffed by volunteer doctors and nurses from Boston Children's Hospital and Brigham & Women's Hospital. A crew of counselors, who have epilepsy or have a family member who does, will be paid a stipend for their services.

The camp was purposely located less than an hour's drive from the major medical centers in Boston to make sure the children would have access to the appropriate medical services in an emergency, Mrs. Pietroniro said.

Patti Biela, the mother of a teenage son with epilepsy, added, "Sending a child with epilepsy on one overnight is a big deal. A whole week is a very big deal."

Mrs. Pietroniro said the campers will be charged a fee for attending the week-long sessions, but "there will be no questions asked if someone can't afford it."

To kick off their fundraising campaign for the Wee Kan Tu camp, WMEAC set up a collection table in front of Town & Country Liquors for one day in November, which is Epilepsy Awareness Month. It didn't take long for the patrons of the store to fill a two-gallon jug with more than \$500 worth of spare change and currency, Vinnie Pietroniro said.

"We're hoping to raise enough money to make the camp a continuing program, but the money isn't our goal," Mrs. Pietroniro said. "Awareness of epilepsy is what we're after."

Tickets for the dinner dance are available by calling Vincent & Carol Pietroniro, 786-9452; Wayne & Sue Hearn, 789-1529; Diane Penna, 786-9284; Rick & Kim Martel, 786-1169; and Donna Kerley, 592-5305.

* * * * *

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Agawam/West Side Toastmasters Slate New Mtg. Schedule

The Agawam/West Springfield Chapter of Toastmasters International will hold their meetings on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month.

The January 1999 meetings will be held on the 14th and 28th of the month beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the meeting room of Country Estates, Route 75, Agawam.

The club's mission is to make its members and guests improve their communication and leadership skills, which can be applied toward your everyday work and social needs.

The meetings are free for the public to attend and are conducted in a relaxed and informal surrounding.

The club welcomes the public of all ages to attend. If you need further information, please contact Jim McDougal, 789-2925, or Mark Proulx, 789-0591.

Local Military Men Return From Okinawa

Marine Gunnery Sgt. Kenneth J. Roberts, a 1981 graduate of Agawam High School, and Navy Hospitalman Chad E. Gilbert, son of Edward G. Gilbert of Agawam and a 1996 graduate of Agawam High School, recently completed a six-month deployment to Okinawa, Japan with 2nd Battalion, 8th Marines, as part of the Unit Deployment Program (UDP).

While deployed, Roberts' and Gilbert's units participated in many community relations projects bolstering the relationship of the U.S. military and Okinawan citizens.

UDP units based in the United States come to Okinawa for six months to train. From Okinawa, the servicemen's units can deploy to mainland Japan, Korea, and many other Pacific countries.

Roberts joined the Marine Corps in February 1981; Gilbert joined the Navy in June 1996.

Santa Visits Polish Club Christmas Party...



ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13TH, the Polish American Club in Feeding Hills held its annual Christmas party for children. Due to the "cooperative" weather we had in mid-December, Santa Claus was able to arrive at the club without worrying about the conditions of pre-Christmas travel. IN LEFT PHOTO: The jolly old elf greets Stephanie Norman outside of the club. IN RIGHT PHOTO: Santa with Jessica Gruska and Janice Barako (in back).

Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

Agawam Public Library To Show Children's Movie, "A Simple Wish," This Saturday

Agawam and Feeding Hills families with children ages four and up are invited to the library on Saturday, January 9th, from 2:30-4:00 p.m. to attend a viewing of the movie "A Simple Wish," starring Martin Short, Kathleen Turner, and Mara Wilson.

Anabel wishes for a fairy godmother and gets Murray instead. He's short on experience, and long on excuses. This comedy is rated G.

TO REGISTER, PLEASE CALL 789-1550 OR VISIT THE LIBRARY BY JANUARY 7th.

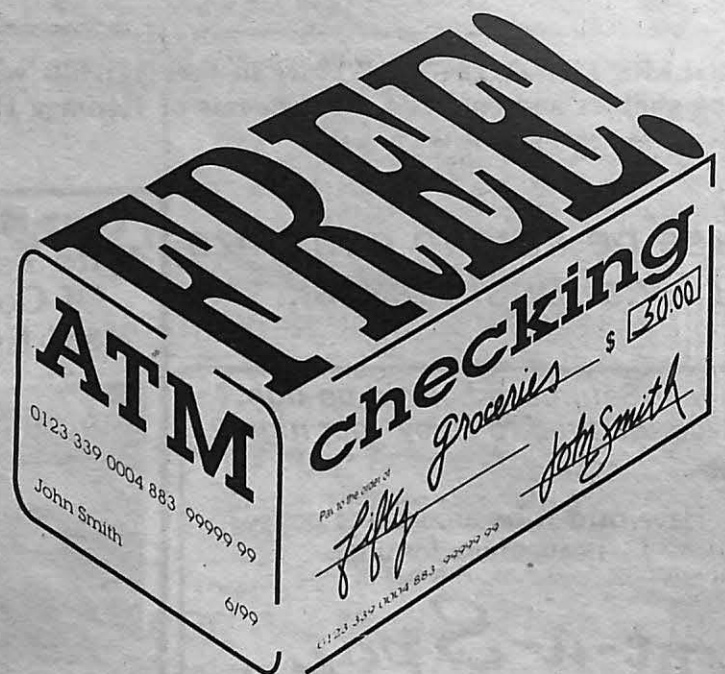
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Young Carolers Entertain Area Elderly...



MEMBERS OF TROOP 557 from Feeding Hills recently spread some holiday cheer by singing Christmas carols at Quail Run Estates. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



CAROLERS FROM The Kids' Place in Feeding Hills were prepared to demonstrate their singing abilities and entertain the residents of Heritage Hall's West Building with yuletide tunes. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

* * *

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Ag. Senior Center's Weekly Lunch Menu

Monday, January 11th: Stuffed cabbage, mashed potatoes, corn, oatmeal bread, apple.

Tuesday, January 12th: Beans and macaroni soup, turkey on a roll, spinach salad.

Wednesday, January 13th: Ziti and meatballs, green beans, Vienna bread, ice cream.

Thursday, January 14th: Chicken paprika pie, tossed salad, breadsticks, brownie.

Friday, January 15th: Baked fish, rice pilaf, cole slaw, rye bread, pears.

(Menu subject to change without notice.)

Agawam Golden Age Club's Chapter 2 Events For Jan. 1999

Wednesday, Jan. 20th: Regular meeting at 1:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. Entertainment by Joyce Doyle, "Stories & Songs."

Friday, Jan. 22nd: Board of Directors' meeting, 1:00 p.m., Heritage Woods, Agawam.

The 1999 membership dues are now payable to Edward Grimes, 1123 Main Street, Agawam, MA 01001.

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IN LEFT PHOTO: Rosemary Sandlin receives the Paul Harris Fellowship from David DeLancey (left) and Agawam Rotary President Charles Heyl. IN RIGHT PHOTO: Heyl and State Senator Linda Melconian congratulate Sandlin on her receiving this prestigious award.

Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

Rosemary Sandlin Awarded Paul Harris Fellowship From Rotary Club International

Agawam School Committee member Rosemary Sandlin of Feeding Hills was recently awarded the prestigious Paul Harris Fellowship for her outstanding work for Agawam Rotary Club International.

The owner of the Rosemary Sandlin Accounting Co., a private accounting business and personal and business tax service, Sandlin is Chief of Staff for Massachusetts State Senate Assistant Majority Leader Linda J. Melconian.

She has been a member of the Agawam

Democratic Town Committee since 1990 and a member of the Massachusetts State Committee since 1997. She was appointed to the Agawam Housing Authority in 1978 and was elected vice-chair in 1998.

Sandlin was the first woman nominated to the Agawam Rotary Club International in 1984, served on the Board of Directors from 1990-1996, served as the first woman president from 1994-1995, and installed the first Inter-Act Club at Agawam High School.

* * *

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with us, each and
every week ... AAN!*

* * *



MARY MCGRATH holds the newspaper article announcing her granddaughter, Cmdr. Kathleen McGrath, taking command of the U.S. frigate *Jarrett*. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Mary McGrath Is Grandmother Of 1st Female Warship Cmdr.

Mary McGrath, a resident of Heritage Hall's South Building, is the proud grandmother of U.S. Navy Commander Kathleen McGrath, who recently earned a place in American military history.

On Friday, December 18th, Commander McGrath became the first woman to command a warship. During a ceremony at the San Diego Naval Station, she took command of the frigate *Jarrett*, a man-of-war capable of shooting guns, torpedoes, and missiles.

McGrath's selection for this assignment comes five years after Congress approved the assignment of women to combatants, and 20 years after women began being regularly assigned to auxiliary vessels.

After accepting command of the *Jarrett*, the commander remarked, "It's an understatement that I'm delighted."

Suffice it to say that Mary is quite proud of her granddaughter's most prestigious achievement.

Fish & Chip Dinners Held Each Friday At The Agawam VFW

Each Friday evening, fish and chip dinners will be held at the Agawam VFW, Post 1632 (located at 194 South Street, Agawam).

The cost is \$5.95 per person, and the Friday night dinners will begin at 5:00 p.m. and end at 9:00 p.m.

Classified ads in the Advertiser News cost just \$10 per week for 30 words or less; however, we DO NOT take them over the telephone!!! Please mail your ad with payment to P.O. Box 263, Feeding Hills, MA 01030, or stop by our office at 14 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills.

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Neighbor To Neighbor Of America, Inc., Celebrates Its 30th Anniversary

Neighbor to Neighbor of America Inc., New England's largest welcoming service, located in Agawam, celebrates 30 years of welcoming new residents to their homes.

Founded in 1969, Neighbor to Neighbor reached out to the north, welcoming newcomers in Northern Connecticut and Western Massachusetts. Since then, Neighbor to Neighbor has continued to greet newcomers with a smile in many New England communities.

"Neighbor to Neighbor is a little bit of motherhood and apple pie," said Bob Magovern, president of Neighbor to Neighbor of America Inc. "We are in the business of delivering warm fuzzies to people who need them the most, the new kids on the block. In a time of overstuffed mailboxes and corporate indifference, Neighbor to Neighbor continues to deliver personal, in-home advertising and creates a connection between local business and new homeowners."

At a time when a friendly face and helping hand are hard to find, Neighbor to Neighbor knocks on the doors of all new residents and brings them community and civic information, as well as many savings from local businesses. Representatives set up an appointment where they can sit down with the newcomer and give them all the information they need, from trash pick-up schedules to daycare providers and dentists to hairdressers and grocery stores. The new residents hear directly from one of their neighbors where to bring their business, the best day to go, and who to talk to once they are there.

The nation's largest in-home welcoming ser-

vice, Welcome Wagon stopped knocking on doors this month after 72 years. Welcome Wagon will no longer provide personal service to the merchants or newcomers in their program, but has joined a mailing program. Although they have stopped greeting their newcomers, Neighbor to Neighbor will continue to reach out to new residents wherever we are able and expand our program to many new communities.

Our logo, the pineapple, is New England's symbol of hospitality. Dating back to colonial times, ship captains, upon returning from exotic voyages, would place the pineapple atop their gatepost to let neighbors know of their safe return. It was an invitation to come visit and share the fruits and good fortune.

Neighbor to Neighbor continues this tradition. Neighbor to Neighbor of America Inc. is truly a family run business, with president Bob Magovern, vice president Jim Magovern, and regional manager Carrie Magovern, who stated, "Having the company managed by a family really adds to the personal touch we pride ourselves on providing to every individual in the program, both businesses and newcomers."

Neighbor to Neighbor is expanding throughout New England. With 30 years of experience in welcoming newcomers to their new communities, Neighbor to Neighbor of America Inc. continues to grow and prosper.

For more information about Neighbor to Neighbor, or to become a sponsor or representative, please call (413) 786-0244 or 1-800-474-7777. Also, we now have a website at www.ntnoa.com.



RICHARD MACIASZEK AND LORI SPIRO

Lori Spiro Engaged To Wed Richard Maciaszek

Mr. & Mrs. Louis Spiro of Feeding Hills announce the engagement of their daughter, Lori, to Richard Maciaszek, son of Mr. & Mrs. Konstanty Maciaszek of Chicopee.

Lori graduated from Westfield State College with a bachelor's degree in psychology and education. She is employed by the Chicopee Public Schools as a Spanish teacher at Fairview Veterans Memorial Middle School.

Richard graduated from Springfield Technical Community College with a degree in heat and power. He is employed by New England Mechanical Company as an HVAC installer.

A July wedding is planned.

For the best in local goods and services, be sure to check our classified ads each and every week...

American Legion Post 185 Seeks New Members

Agawam Legion Post 185 of Agawam is seeking new members to join its ranks. If you are an American veteran who served in the military during any of the following wartime eras, why not join the Legion's "membership challenge"!

World War I, 4/6/17 to 11/11/18; World War II, 12/7/41 to 12/31/46; Korean War, 6/25/50 to 1/31/55; Vietnam, 2/28/61 to 5/7/75; Grenada/Lebanon, 8/24/82 to 7/31/84; Panama, 12/20/89 to 1/31/90; Persian Gulf (Desert Storm), 8/2/90 to date of cessation.

Applications for Legion membership are available from any Post 185 member, including Senior Vice-Commander George Brown, Auxiliary Senior Vice-President Kristine Henson, Commander Sam Gallant, and Auxiliary President Mary Ellen Morissette.

— ADVERTISER NEWS —

Baby, Take A Bow!



Mrs. "L" Is 30 Now!
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Mom, Dad & Sibs

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\$29.00

12 Sessions

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Unlimited
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Coupon Expires
1/31/99

**Buy A Tanning
Lotion, Get
2 Free Sessions**
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Agawam UNICO Holds Annual Pancake Breakfast...



"MAKE MINE A DOUBLE STACK!!": Ed Disco and Charles Calabrese took their pancake-flipping duties seriously at Agawam UNICO's annual pancake breakfast. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



"SMILE FOR THE CAMERA!!!": These cheery and always-dedicated members of Agawam UNICO were glad to help out at the annual pancake breakfast, which was held on Sunday, December 13th, at the Italian Sporting Club on Cooper Street, Agawam. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



IN PHOTO ABOVE: Caleigh and Kelsey Caroleo with Santa and Mrs. Claus at Agawam UNICO's annual pancake breakfast. **IN PHOTO BELOW:** Rose Morassi, Michelle Morin, and Danielle Morassi at the breakfast's "bake sale" table. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.



"HAVE YOU BEEN NAUGHTY OR NICE???:" The young and young-at-heart pose with Santa and Mrs. Claus at Agawam UNICO's annual pancake breakfast. Standing to the right of Mrs. Claus is UNICO President Dick Dilullo. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



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SARAT FORD

245 Springfield Street
Agawam

Church News

Weekly Calendar From Ag. Congregational

This Sunday, January 10th, is the First Sunday after Epiphany. The Worship Service begins at 10:30 a.m. at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main Street, Agawam.

Rev. Fuller's Sermon will be "God's Servant," taken from Text: Matthew 3:13-17. The Children's Message will be "The First Cousin of the Pigeon."

This Sunday begins the Heifer Project. The Heifer Project will continue through February 14th, when monies collected will be dedicated. The Church School children will receive their "Ark" today.

Also, adults who wish to participate in this project may pick up an "Ark" on the table in the Narthex. To help increase donations, there will be a "Guess the Amount of Candy in the Jar," and raffle tickets for three wonderful prizes will be sold in Bryan Hall following Worship Service at the Coffee Hour.

The Open Pantry item for this Sunday is Jello. Items collected will be donated to the Agawam/West Springfield Open Pantry.

The Heifer Project International is a worldwide organization that began following World War II to assist farmers to increase their livestock. Today, money collected is used to purchase cows, sheep, rabbits, chickens, bees, and other small farm animals for the United States and other countries.

If you would like to donate money to this project, please send it to the Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main Street, Agawam, MA 01001 (Attention Heifer Project).

The Club K*1*2, Club 34, and Club 56 (as well as youth of all ages) will hold a trip to see the movie "The Prince of Egypt" on Saturday, January 9th. It will be an afternoon matinee at the new stadium-style Hoyt's Enfield Cinema.

The youth will meet at the church at 11:00 a.m. to travel to the theater and return by 2:30 p.m.

Mark your calendars today! The Catering Committee is sponsoring a Ziti & Meatball Supper on Saturday, January 23rd, at 5:30 p.m.

Cost is \$7 for adults and \$4 for children under 12.

Catholic Women Slate Supper And Auction

The annual Pot Luck Supper and Penny Auction of the Agawam Catholic Women's Club will be held on January 11th, in the Social Center of St. John the Evangelist Church on Main Street, Agawam.

Hosted by the board members of the club, salads will be served buffet-style at 6:00 p.m. and the hot supper at 6:30 p.m.

Board members in charge are Betsy Ciempa, president; Carol Pignatari, first vice president; Theresa Longo, second vice president; Alice Buell, secretary; Joan Malinoski, treasurer; Martha Jerry, assistant treasurer; and Eleanor Balboni, Gloria Colby, and Barbara Pfau, directors.

Ham & Bean Supper At First Baptist

First Baptist Church of Agawam, corner of Main & Elm Sts., invites you to a family-style Ham & Bean Supper on Saturday, January 16th.

The supper will include baked ham, homemade baked beans, potato salad, coleslaw, rolls, coffee, tea, or milk, and assorted homemade pies.

Sittings are at 4:45 p.m. and 6:15 p.m. Cost for adults is \$7 and \$3 for children under 10.

For reservations, please call 786-8609, 786-8209, or 525-2818. If you are unable to honor your reservations, please call to cancel.

Youths Stage Nativity Reenactment...



YOUTHS FROM VALLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH in Feeding Hills staged a reenactment of the Nativity during the fourth Sunday of Advent service. The participants were Jake Fish, Jaime and Tyler Pearsons, Michelle Torres, Sarah and Joey Rheutt, Kendall Hill, Donnie Manley, Brittany and Jessica Stacy, and Amanda Bushey.

Calendar Of Upcoming Events At First Baptist Church Of Agawam

At the 9:30 a.m. service of worship this Sunday, Pastor Richard Barnes will speak on "Lessons From the Wise Men." He will use scriptural text from Matthew 2: 1-13. Raquel Rodriguez will lead the responsive reading.

Following worship, coffee and conversation will be held in Davis Hall. Classes for all ages are available until 11:45 a.m. Nursery care is provided.

The monthly meeting of the Board of Deacons will be held at 7:00 p.m. in Lockhart Parlor.

On Monday at 7:30 p.m., the Men's Group of the church will have an open meeting in Davis Hall, inviting members of other groups of the church to attend.

Representatives from the Agawam Junior Women's league will be present. They will explain their current project, that of raising funds for the Agawam Fire Department to purchase imaging helmets. A speaker from "Fire and Safety" will present a video of the necessity of the helmets.

It is hoped the Men's Group will be able to participate in this fundraising project.

On our calendar this week:

Monday, January 11th: 7:30 p.m., Word Search Bible Study; 7:30 p.m., Men's Group (David Hall).

Tuesday, January 12th: 10:00 a.m., Searchlighters meet at the home of Dorothy Smith; 7:00 p.m., Junior Youth Group.

Wednesday, January 13th: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Trading Post Open; 7:30 p.m., Church Committee.

Thursday, January 14th: 10:00 a.m., Bell Ringers Rehearsal; 7:30 p.m., Choir Rehearsal.

Friday, January 15th: Youth Leaders Training in Grotonwood.

On Saturday, January 16th, a ham and bean supper (sponsored by the Mr. & Mrs. Club) will be held at First Baptist Church. Sittings are at 4:45 and 6:15 p.m.

For last-minute reservations, call 786-8609.

The Caring Connection contacts for the month of January are Gwen and Jack Magovern.

ADVERTISER NEWS



Worship Services:

Saturday 5 pm & Sunday 8 am & 10 am
Sunday School & Nursery Care: Sunday 10 am

The Reverend Len Cowan

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- Matthew 5: 14-16

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Church News - continued...



Reflections...
submitted by
Rev. Peter Monahan
Pastor of the New Life
Christian Church,
Suffield, CT
(860) 668-4444 or
(413) 786-8735

The Patience Of God...

Most people know that Moses was connected to the Ten Commandments in some fashion. Specifically, Moses carried the two tablets upon which the Ten Commandments were written, down from the top of Mount Sinai.

What might surprise some people is that Moses actually performed the same act twice. "Twice?" one might ask. Yes, twice. The reason Moses had to carry two sets of tablets containing the Ten Commandments down from the top of Mount Sinai is that Moses broke the first set in a fit of rage after his first trip down.

The Ten Commandments summarize the rules God has established for the way we people are to relate to Him, as well as to each other. We need those rules, because otherwise we wouldn't know how to treat God or how to treat other people.

When God created people, He did so with great plans in mind. We were destined to run the world for God, according to His will.

"What are human beings that You are mindful of them, mortals that You care for them? Yet You have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor. You have given them dominion over the works of Your hands."

Unfortunately, our earliest ancestors weren't satisfied with the status of being "a little lower than God," and tried for more. Then followed the fall in the Garden of Eden; hence the need for the Ten Commandments.

Moses broke the first set of tablets upon which the Ten Commandments were written because

while he was busy at the top of Mount Sinai, his brother Aaron was busy leading the people of Israel into apostasy, which infuriated Moses upon his return. Moses should not have been surprised by the people's behavior, because he knew from personal experience they were a rebellious lot.

How did God react to Moses' temper tantrum when Moses broke the tablets? After all, these were no ordinary stones; they had God's handwriting on them. If for no other reason, that made the tablets unique, as well as valuable.

Did God get angry at Moses for breaking the precious tablets? No; this was yet but another occasion for God's personality to shine through. God was patient with Moses, not angry.

Essentially, God said to Moses, "Okay, now, let's everybody count to 10 (no pun intended), take a deep breath, and we'll try it again." Actually, it sounded more like **"Cut two tablets of stone like the former ones, and I will write on the tablets the words which were on the former tablets, which you broke."**

In all honesty, most of us would have reacted to Moses somewhat differently. Most of us would have gotten angry at Moses, and might have sought to punish him in some way. That is because most of us are impatient and, upon provocation, become angry.

In our hearts, many of us are afraid that God is like us in that regard. Because we are impatient and become angered with the right provocation, we fear that God does as well. Many people, perhaps even secretly, are afraid of God because they think He's impatient with us.

If God was likely to get impatient, chances are He'd get impatient with Moses a whole lot sooner than He would with us. God demonstrated patience with Moses, and He does with us as well.

In the big picture, the Bible tells us that **the Lord is not slow about His promise (of Jesus' second coming), but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.**

God's patience towards us is not extended in order to be exploited, but rather to encourage us to respond to His love with appreciation and acceptance.

News & Notes From F.H. Congregational

You are welcome to join with us at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church, which is located at 21 N. Westfield Street in Feeding Hills. Sunday worship hour begins at 10:00 a.m.

The Lectionary readings for January 10th, the first Sunday after Epiphany, are Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 29, Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3:13-17. Rev. Donaldson's sermon is entitled "Doing What God Wants Us to Do."

Children are welcome to attend worship with their parents, leaving at the designated time for Sunday School; nursery care will be provided for the very young.

This Sunday, January 10th, is Open Pantry Sunday. Articles of clean, usable clothing, as well as groceries, will be collected. There is a special need this time of year for hats, scarves, mittens, etc.

Volunteers are needed also to prepare desserts for our monthly meal for the Open Pantry on Wednesday, January 13th. Please have your dessert at the church by noon on that day. There is a sign-up sheet posted in Griswold Hall if you would like to indicate what dessert you will bring.

The Agawam Parish Association will hold a breakfast meeting here on Saturday, January 9th, at 8:30 a.m. Clergy and lay persons from all Agawam churches are welcome to attend.

This group was formed to organize work done collectively by area churches. If you are interested in joining, or need more information, please call Rev. Donaldson at 786-5061.

Operation Friendship will sponsor a Roast Beef Supper here on Saturday, January 9th, with servings from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

These meals are fundraisers for area youth who will travel to Europe to promote international friendship.

Deacons: Please note the special Deacons meeting on Tuesday, January 12th, at 7:30 p.m.

Congratulations to Operation Friendship and the Ladies Benevolent Society for being the first two groups to get their annual reports to the office! The Clerk's report garnered third prize.

On the calendar:
Friday, January 8th: 7:00 p.m., Radio Club.
Saturday, January 9th: 8:30 to 10:00 a.m., Agawam Parish Association breakfast meeting; 5:00 to 6:30 p.m., OF Roast Beef Supper.
Sunday, January 10th: 10:00 a.m., Open Pantry Sunday.
Monday, January 11th: 4:00 p.m., Girl Scouts; 6:30 p.m., Cub Scouts.
Tuesday, January 12th: 7:00 p.m., A.A.; 7:30 p.m., Deacons.
Wednesday, January 13th: Desserts needed for Open Pantry; 4:00 p.m., Girl Scouts; 6:30 p.m., Girl Scouts; 7:00 p.m., Choir; 7:30 p.m., Christian Ed; 7:30 p.m., Cub Scout Committee.
Thursday, January 14th: 7:00 p.m., A.A.

— ADVERTISER NEWS —

Heifer Project At Ag. Congregational

The Heifer Project International is a worldwide organization that began following World War II to assist farmers to increase their livestock. Today, money collected is used to purchase cows, sheep, rabbits, chickens, bees, and other small animals for the farmers in the United States and other countries.

A \$10 gift can purchase a starter flock of chickens; \$60 can purchase a breeding trio of rabbits; \$120 can purchase a goat, sheep, or pig; and \$500 can purchase a bred heifer capable of producing three gallons of milk each day, and a new calf every year. And your gift multiplies as each recipient "passes on" the first-born female animal to new families.

Beginning this Sunday, January 10th, each Church School-age child at Agawam Congregational Church will receive an "Ark" to feed with money that they collect. Also, the "Arks" will be available to any adult who wishes to participate in the project.

If you would like to donate money to this worthwhile project, please make your check payable to "Heifer Project," c/o the Agawam Congregational Church, and send it to: 745 Main Street, Agawam, MA 01001 (Attention Heifer Project).

The project will run through February 14th, when all money collected will be dedicated during the Worship Service.

Parish News And Events From St. John's Church

AGAWAM CATHOLIC SINGLES CLUB

Meetings are held every second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Anyone interested in joining should call Frank, 789-2764, or Kay, 786-8442.

BIBLE STUDY

Each Wednesday morning. Interested? Call Annette at 786-4977.

Each Friday morning, a video presentation of Sunday's Scriptures in Parish Center after Mass.

PARISH BEREAVEMENT GROUP

This group will meet next Wednesday, January 13th, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Parish Center Foyer.

Anyone is welcome to join this group.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS 1998-99 Schedule

Grades 1-4: Saturday morning, 9:00 to 10:00 p.m.
Grades 5-7: Tuesday evening, 6:15 to 7:15 p.m.

Grades 8-10: Monday evening, 6:15 to 7:15 p.m.

Grade 11: Monday evening, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.



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Spotlight On Business

Legal Memo

by

Alan L. Ferrigno, Esq.
546 Springfield St., F.H.
(413) 786-9454



New Medicaid Regulations Transfer of Assets, Use of Trusts & Look-Back Period

The Division of Medical Assistance in Massachusetts has now implemented new regulations, effective August 1, 1998, applicable to transfers made after August 11, 1998. These are commonly referred to as the "new transfer and trust" regulations.

The following discussions will highlight some (but not all) of the noteworthy points of the regulations:

The new Massachusetts regulations set forth transfer of resource rules as well as rules for the calculation of the period of ineligibility resulting from a disqualifying transfer. These codify current practice of taking the total amount of assets transferred and dividing by the average monthly nursing home cost currently set at \$4,500 to determine the period of ineligibility. The regulations clarify how the periods of ineligibility are to be calculated when there have been multiple transfers.

Generally, transfers in which the disqualification periods overlap will be aggregated from the date of the first transfer to determine the total period of ineligibility. Transfers where the periods of disqualification do not overlap will be treated as separate events (i.e., not aggregated) with their own periods of ineligibility.

The look-back period for direct outright transfers (non-trust transfers) is 36 months. The look-back period for transfers from revocable trusts to "someone other than the nursing-facility resident, or transfers of resources into an irrevocable trust where future payment to the nursing facility resident is prevented" is defined under the regulation at 60 months.

Massachusetts law continues the exceptions to the transfer rules currently available under the old law, for transfers to an individual's spouse, to another for the sole benefit of the individual's spouse or to certain trusts for the benefit of the individual's blind or disabled child, or to a caretaker child.

CURES OR PARTIAL CURES

The new regulations allow a cure and even partial cure of the ineligibility period if resources previously transferred are returned to the nursing facility resident. Of course, the newly returned resources will be counted for the eligibility rules.

NEW HARDSHIP EXCEPTIONS TO THE TRANSFER RULES

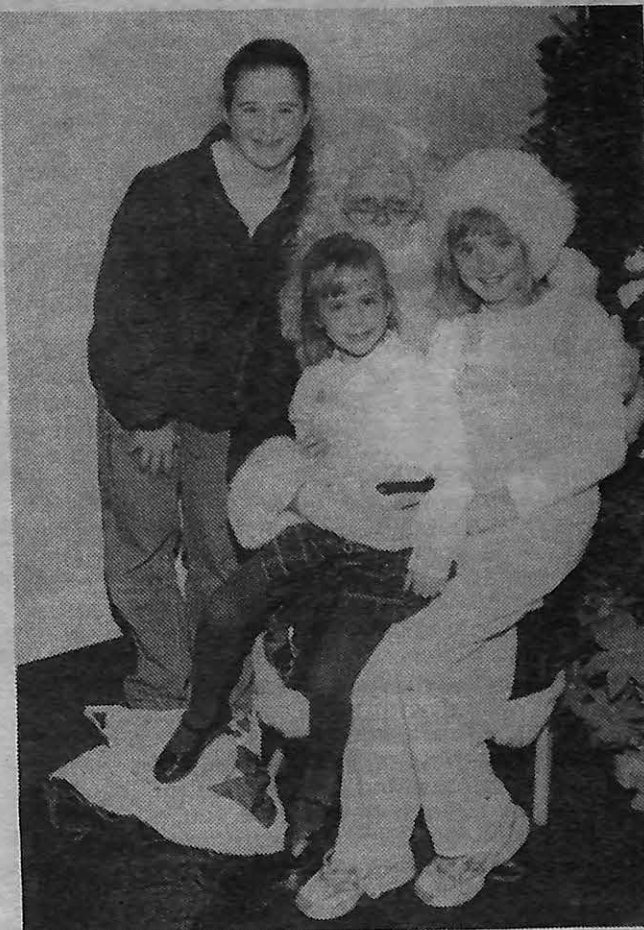
Elaborating on the hardship exceptions to the transfer rules provided by the Omnibus Reconciliation Act (OBRA '93), Massachusetts in the new regulations has set forth the criterion and procedure for applying for the hardship exception to allow the Division of Medical Assistance to waive all or a portion of a period of ineligibility resulting from the application of the transfer rules.

Generally, a hardship exception may be available to a nursing facility resident if all of the following four (4) circumstances exist according to the regulation:

- 1) Denial of benefits would cause the applicant to be deprived of medical care to the point of endangering the applicant's life or health or would cause the applicant to be seriously deprived of food, shelter, clothing, or other necessities.
- 2) The transferred resource cannot be retrieved from the transferee after exhausting all resources and the transferee is unable or unwilling to do so and will not otherwise compensate the nursing facility resident.
- 3) The institution has notified the applicant of its intent to discharge the resident.
- 4) There is no less costly non-institutional alternative to meet the nursing facility resident's needs.

Attorney Alan L. Ferrigno maintains an office at 546 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills. If you have a legal question, Attorney Ferrigno will attempt to address the same in this column. Please send any questions to the address listed above.

Christmas Party At Landmark Realtors...



EVERYONE AT LANDMARK REALTORS, located on Springfield Street in Feeding Hills, was definitely in a holiday mood during a Christmas party that was held on Sunday, December 13th. **IN LEFT PHOTO:** Allie, Brittany, and Amy Paquette enjoyed visiting with Santa Claus. **IN RIGHT PHOTO:** Kyle Allaire and Bret Casey received "balloon hats" from three colorful clowns — "Klum-Z," "Choo Choo," and "Wacky-Takis." Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

Alan L. Ferrigno's "Legal Memo" is a regular feature of The AAN...

Drs. Joseph M. & Katherine S. Schlaffer



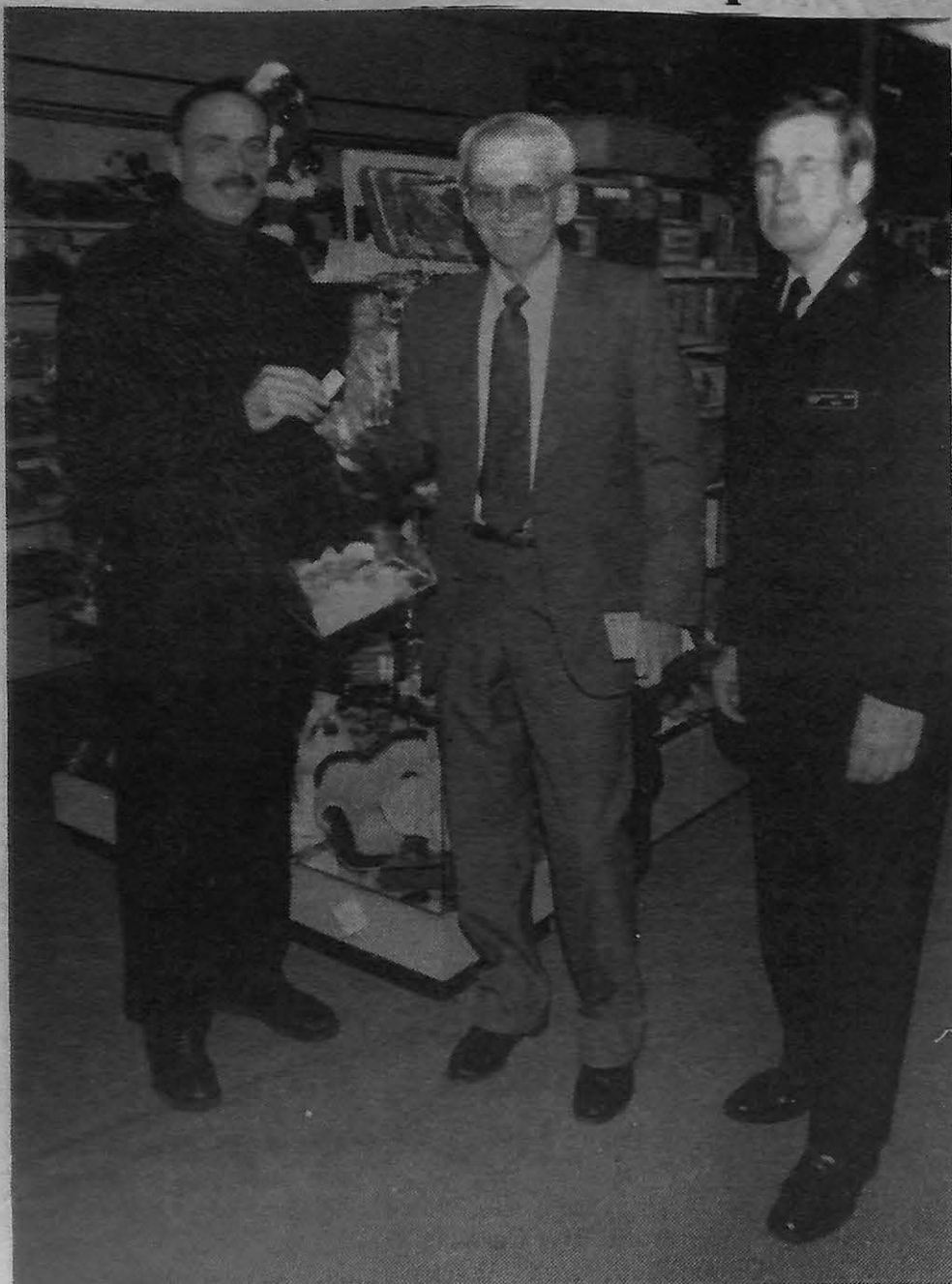
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*Spotlight On Business - continued...***Beanie Baby Raffle At Surprise!...**

Surprise! Card & Gift Shop, located at 838 Suffield Street, Agawam (in the Southgate Shopping Center), recently raffled off a set of Beanie Babies. Bob McElligott (center), owner of Surprise!, held the container of raffle tickets while Ric Sardella (left), publisher/owner of The Agawam Advertiser News, drew the winning ticket. Looking on is Major Richard Bosh (right) of the Salvation Army, which was the recipient of the proceeds from the raffle. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

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From
Our Daily
Bread

WHAT'S THE INCARNATION?

READ:
Hebrews 2:14-18

He had to be made
like His brethren,
that He might be a
merciful and faithful
High Priest.
—Hebrews 2:17

The incarnation. It's one of those big doctrinal terms that may puzzle us. What does it mean? Let's take a few moments to think about it.

Look at yourself in a mirror. What do you think it would feel like to be a different person? You will never know. You may modify your body by exercise and diet. You may change your mind and your behavior. You may even resort to surgery. But you and I will forever be the unique individuals God created us to be. Regardless of how much we may try, we can't actually experience what it is to be another person.

What was it like, then, for God to take on our human nature and live as a man who was despised and misun-

derstood on this fallen planet? (Isa. 53). He already knew exactly what sinful people go through. After all, He is all-knowing. Yet He voluntarily came to Bethlehem, entered into our suffering and sorrow, and personally experienced our trials and temptations (Heb. 4:15). He lovingly became one of us to pay the penalty for our sins and to conquer death (Heb. 2:14). Because He suffered, He is able to assist us now (v.18).

That's what the incarnation is all about. And if we thank Jesus for all eternity, it still won't be enough. —VCG

Touched with sympathy within;

He knows our feeble frame;

He knows what sore temptations mean,

For He hath felt the same. —Watts

THE SON OF GOD BECAME THE SON OF MAN
TO CHANGE SONS OF MEN INTO SONS OF GOD.

Ribbon-Cutting At Bridgeport...

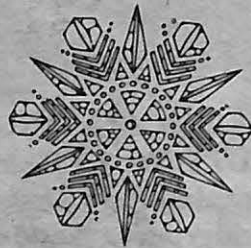
AT THE RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY marking Bridgeport National Bindery's recent move to the Agawam Regional Industrial Park. From left to right: Randy Conklin, president of The O'Leary Company; James M. Larsen, president of Bridgeport National Bindery; and Bruce F. Jacobsen, vice-president of Bridgeport National Bindery. (See related story and additional photo on Page 22.)

Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



Surprise!
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*Wishes to thank all
of our loyal customers
for making our
Beanie Baby Fundraiser for
The Salvation Army
such a great success.*



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A Safe &
Happy New Year!*



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Spotlight On Business - continued...**Recent Promotions
Announced At
Hampden Savings**

Hampden Savings Bank president Thomas R. Burton recently announced the following promotions.

Ms. Kimberly Curran, who has 19 years of banking experience, is now Senior Vice President - Retail Banking, and will supervise the operation of Hampden Savings Bank's four Full Service Offices in Hampden County. Ms. Curran has served the Bank in several positions including as a Vice President and Full Service Office Manager.

Ms. Donna Early, who has 23 years of banking experience, was promoted to Assistant Vice President - Mortgage and Consumer Loan Operations. In her new position, she will direct all loan operations in that department to ensure timely and efficient customer service. Ms. Early had served the Bank as a Loan Operations Officer.

Mr. Edward Kuchyt, who has over 17 years of banking experience, was promoted to Assistant Vice President - Operations. In this position, he will continue to implement Hampden Savings Bank's Y2K compliance programs as well as assist in the development of new systems and database support networks. Mr. Kuchyt had served the Bank as a Retail Operations Office.

Barbara Ubertaini, possessing more than 12 years of banking experience, was promoted to Assistant Vice President of Business Banking. In this rapidly growing department, she will provide direct consultation to business clients as well as supervise daily operations. Ms. Ubertaini had previously served the Bank as the Manager of Business Banking.

Hampden Savings Bank is a 146 year-old financial institution serving businesses, families, and individual customers throughout Western Massachusetts with assets currently estimated in excess of \$200 million. It remains the only independently operated bank headquartered in Springfield.

**Ted Kord Joins
Keenan & Molta's
Longmeadow Office**

Robert P. Molta, President of COLDWELL BANKER KEENAN & MOLTA ASSOCIATES, is proud to announce that Ted Kord has joined its Longmeadow office.

Kord attended Westfield State College and received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Western New England College in Springfield.

His background includes Business Education, Robotics, and Management.

Kord resides in Longmeadow with his wife and they are expecting their first child in July. He can be reached at 413-750-0953 or 413-567-8931.

Coldwell Banker Real Estate Corporation, a subsidiary of Cendant Corporation (NYSE:CD), franchises more than 2,800 independently owned and operated real estate offices with nearly 62,000 sales associates throughout North America.

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Best local news!!!**ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL
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(Snow date: Saturday, January 16)

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DONNA EARLY AND EDWARD KUCHYT were among the personnel who were recently promoted at Hampden Savings Bank.



PARTICIPATING IN THE RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY at Bridgeport National Bindery: James M. Larsen, president of Bridgeport National Bindery; Bruce F. Jacobsen, vice-president of Bridgeport National Bindery; Randy Conklin, president of The O'Leary Company; and Mayor Christopher Johnson. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

**Bridgeport National
Bindery, Inc., Moves
Into New Facility**

After 18 years at 104 Ramah Circle South, Bridgeport National Bindery recently moved into its new facility in the Agawam Regional Industrial Park.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the occasion was held on January 4th, the first day of work in the new building. All of the employees of the company joined together with family and friends for the celebration.

Special guests participating in the ceremony included Agawam Mayor Christopher Johnson, Randy Conklin, president of The O'Leary Company, and Jim Hagan of Westfield Bank.

Bridgeport National Bindery was started in 1947, when Magnus Larsen and a partner purchased a Bridgeport Bindery in Devon, Connecticut. The company grew steadily, and in early 1974 purchased the assets of the National Library Bindery in West Springfield and moved to that town.

In 1981, due to continued growth, the company moved to Agawam; after four expansions on Ramah Circle, a decision was made in the spring of 1998 to put up a new building.

The O'Leary Company was selected as the contractor, and financing was secured from Westfield Bank. The entire building project was completed in six months, a testimony to the efficiency of O'Leary and the cooperation of Westfield Bank.

Bridgeport National Bindery binds and rebinds books for schools, libraries, and individuals throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States. The company also binds books for printers and publishers all over the United States.

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Spotlight On Business - continued...**Coldwell Banker Corp. To Enhance Internet Presence**

Cendant Corporation (NYSE:CD) and franchise COLDWELL BANKER have announced that they have entered into a broad preferred alliance with RealSelect, Inc., operator of REALTOR.COM, the premier real estate site on the Internet with over 1.25 million listings.

As a result of the new relationship, RealSelect becomes the exclusively-endorsed provider of web-related products and services to COLDWELL BANKER, at both the office and sales associate levels.

The five-year preferred alliance agreement between the companies calls for RealSelect to provide a broad range of web-related services for Cendant's brokers and sales associates, including: web site design, hosting services, maintenance and support. As part of the new preferred alliance relationship, Cendant will assist RealSelect in marketing its web product and service offerings directly to brokers and sales associates of Cendant and COLDWELL BANKER.

"This alliance, which is the largest of several steps Cendant/COLDWELL BANKER will take to achieve maximum marketing value through the Internet, is in keeping with Cendant's tradition of providing value-added service to our franchisees," said Richard A. Smith, Chairman and CEO of Cendant's Real Estate Division.

"As the real estate industry's leader in traffic, listings and industry-friendliness, RealSelect is the perfect partner to help our franchisees capitalize on the marketing power of the Internet. RealSelect's acquisition last spring of real estate marketing specialist The Enterprise of America, Ltd., strengthened the company's ability to provide industry-leading technology, tools and web design services to brokers and sales associates," added Smith.

"We have worked diligently to make the Internet a positive force for the real estate industry and the consumer," said Stuart Wolff, Chairman and CEO of RealSelect. "We are pleased that Cendant has seen what we have accomplished in our other ongoing relationships with agents, brokers and multiple listing services and used this as a basis for choosing us as a partner."

"It is critical that all brokers and agents have a highly effective online presence and RealSelect has the agent, office and company-level products and services to help Cendant achieve this goal for their franchisees," added Wolff.

The new association with RealSelect is part of Cendant's global strategy to maximize exposure for its broker franchisees and their listings. As another part of the new relationship, Cendant will endorse REALTOR.COM as the leading online distributor with the franchisees' 330,000 electronic listings.

This endorsement reinforces REALTOR.COM's existing relationships with local multiple listing services through which the franchise systems' listing data is obtained. Cendant is also pursuing other marketing opportunities and alliances, including through its own brands' existing web sites to ensure that its franchisees reach the broadest spectrum of home buyers and sellers on the World Wide Web.

Coldwell Banker Real Estate Corporation, a subsidiary of Cendant Corporation (NYSE:CD), franchises more than 2,800 independently owned and operated real estate offices with nearly 62,000 sales associates throughout North America. In addition to servicing the full spectrum of the residential real estate market, COLDWELL BANKER is an industry leader in the sales of luxury homes through its Previews program.

COLDWELL BANKER Online, one of the most comprehensive real estate industry web sites, is located at <http://coldwellbanker.com>. For more than 90 years, COLDWELL BANKER has been North America's premier full-service provider of real estate services.

RealSelect, Inc., located in Westlake Village, California, is the leading online real estate information and tools provider. RealSelect operates REALTOR.COM, the official Internet site of the National Association of REALTORS, which features existing and new home listings and real estate agent and broker services.

REALTOR.COM is the leader in both content and traffic with over 1.25 million listings (almost 95 percent of available inventory) and over 3.5 million visitors a month. REALTOR.COM has exclusive distribution relationships with five of the top seven Internet portals, which include AOL, Netscape's Netcenter, Excite, Infoseek, and Lycos.

RealSelect also operates HOMEBUILDER.COM, the official new home Internet site of the National Association of Home Builders, which is focused on new homes, lots and plans and builder and remodeler services.

SEE COLDWELL - Page 24...

Molta Associates Attend Training Session For New Coldwell Banker Concierge Program

Southwick: Michelle Stevens, Marketing Director, and Patti Dunn-O'Connell, Business, Systems & Planning Director, recently attended an intensive training class for the new Coldwell Banker Concierge program, an innovative full-service real estate program developed by Coldwell Banker Real Estate Corporation (Coldwell Banker).

Held recently in Philadelphia, the Coldwell Banker Concierge training provided Coldwell Banker brokers with the skills and resources to pilot the Concierge program in their local markets.

"The Coldwell Banker Concierge training equipped Coldwell Banker Keenan & Molta Associates with an impressive pool of resources to offer the most comprehensive full-service real estate ser-

vices to consumers in the Greater Springfield market," said Robert P. Molta, President.

The Coldwell Banker Concierge program assists customers with the many ancillary needs involved in the sale or purchase of a home. The program delivers national and local products and services which facilitate the clients' process from home inspections to decorating services. The national alliances include more than 15 partners including AON Home Warranty, North American Van Lines, AT&T, ADT Security Systems, and Public Storage.

Coldwell Banker Keenan & Molta Associates will be the first real estate company to offer the Coldwell Banker Concierge program in the Greater Springfield market.

* * * * *

Our "Spotlight On Business" is a regular feature of The AAN and is just one more reason why you turn our pages each and every week...

* * * * *

If you are planning to buy or sell... Call Ray First!

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THE PIONEER GROUP is the largest, exclusive buyer agency in Western Massachusetts. As Exclusive Buyer's Agents, we morally, legally and ethically represent only home buyers...and, unlike many other real estate agencies that attempt to represent both buyers and sellers, by working with buyers only, we eliminate any potential conflicts of interest.

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Spotlight On Business - continued...

Pam Savioli

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Whyte Co./Better
Homes & Gardens**
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Checking Insulation...

Energy efficiency, savings, peace and quiet, and comfort are all features of a well-insulated home. Here's how to check your home, or a home you wish to purchase, for adequate insulation:

- Pull out a ruler, pencil, paper, flashlight, and old clothes. Make a list of the thickness of insulation as you walk through the house. Be careful not to pack down the insulation as you measure; it will become less effective. Also be careful not to tear the vapor retarder that may be between the insulation and ceiling.

- In an unfinished attic, measure the thickness of the insulation between the floor joists. In a finished attic, look for a hatch that allows you to get behind finished portions. Measure the insulation depth in the ceiling and slanted sections of the roof and walls. Check crawlspaces and any exposed floors above unheated or uncooled spaces such as the garage, porch, or basement. To check perimeter walls, try looking behind switch plates using a flashlight. Or, make a hole in the wall that can be patched.

- If you're checking out a home you wish to buy, ask for permission to look at key areas such as the attic and crawlspaces. Check copies of recent utility bills to get an indication of how energy-efficient the home is. You might also hire an energy consultant to take an in-depth audit of the home's energy efficiency.

For more insulation tips, call Pam Savioli at (413) 748-7565.

**PIONEER GROUP'S
Web Site Offers
Housing Information**

Need a glossary of real estate firms? ... want to shop for houses from the comforts of home? ... looking for mortgage information? You can find all of this, and much more, on **THE PIONEER GROUP's** site on the World Wide Web.

Company Principals, Raymond Rose and Donald Thompson, claim that it is one of the easiest web sites to tour in the real estate industry. Recently, Gary Lucia was promoted as its company's Internet Administrator.

"As Exclusive Buyer's Agents, we firmly believe that it is critical to service our clients with the highest levels of professionalism and care. Our web site allows our current clients, and any new clients, to shop for houses at their convenience. Also, we have complete information regarding school systems and town demographics available," Rose stated.

"Not only are we extremely pleased with the way that Gary designed our site, we are very proud of the fact that we just won our fourth national award for our web site's content and design," Thompson added.

Home Buyers will also find complete information regarding the benefits of using an Exclusive Buyer's Agent to purchase their home, mortgage pre-approval guidelines, mortgage workshop updates, and much more.

The web address is www.pioneer-group.com. **THE PIONEER GROUP** is the largest real estate firm throughout Western Massachusetts that represents home buyers exclusively.

As Buyer's Agents, they morally, legally, and ethically represent home buyers only, and, as opposed to most other real estate firms that represent both buyers and sellers, by representing buyers only, today's home buyer can be assured that there will never be a conflict of interest in their transaction and there are no out-of-pocket fees for the home buyer when they use the services of **THE PIONEER GROUP**.

For more information, please e-mail them by using their web site ... or simply call 731-6800.

* * *

Why not surprise your friends and loved ones with a "Birthday Ad" in The AAN! They cost just \$30, so bring yours in today...

* * *

**Agawam Federal
Credit Union Gets
Five-Star Rating**

Richard E. Pisano, President and CEO of the Agawam Federal Credit Union serving the community of Agawam, has announced that again this year, the credit union was awarded the five-star rating from Bauer's Financial and will be included on its safest credit union list.

Bauer's Financial is a national firm that rates the performance of federally-insured credit unions, banks, and thrifts throughout the United States.

Come join your friends and neighbors by becoming a member of your local credit union.

ADVERTISER NEWS

COLDWELL - from Page 23...

Cendant (NYSE:CD) is the world's premier provider of consumer and business services. Cendant operates in three principal segments: Real Estate, Travel and Alliance Marketing. The Cendant Real Estate Division's 12,000-plus franchised offices participate in over 1.5 million sides of real estate transactions annually.

The Cendant Real Estate Division also includes Cendant Mobility, the largest relocation company in the world with over 1,700 corporate clients, and Cendant Mortgage, the 11th largest mortgage originator in the United States with \$11.7 billion in loans closed in 1997.

Headquartered in Parsippany, New Jersey, Cendant Corporation has more than 40,000 employees and operates in over 100 countries.

*All the hometown news
with us ... AAN!!!*

* * *

AGAWAM PUBLIC MARKET

USDA CHOICE

Boneless Bottom Round Roast	\$1.89 Lb.
Boneless Back Rump Roast	\$1.99 Lb.
Boneless Eye Round Roast	\$2.49 Lb.
Beef Round Cubed Steak	\$2.89 Lb.
Beef Round Stew Beef	\$2.69 Lb.
Fresh Ground Round 5 Lbs. Or More	\$2.49 Lb.
10 Lbs. Or More	\$1.99 Lb.
T-Bone Or Porterhouse Steak	\$3.99 Lb.
Fresh Ground Chuck 5 Lbs. Or More	\$1.69 Lb.
10 Lbs. Or More	\$1.39 Lb.
Boneless Center Cut Pork Roast	\$2.69 Lb.
Boneless Center Cut Pork Cutlets	\$2.89 Lb.
Grade "A" Chicken Breast Whole	\$1.19 Lb.
Split	\$1.39 Lb.
Zonin Italian Sausage (Hot Or Sweet)	\$1.99 Lb.

FROZEN & DAIRY

Hood 1% Low Fat Milk (Gallon)	\$1.97
Hood 1% Low Fat Milk (1/2 Gallon)	\$1.29
Hood Chocolate Milk (1/2 Gallon)	\$1.49
Grade "A" Jumbo Eggs (Dozen)	99¢
SEAFOOD	
Frozen Swordfish Steaks	\$3.99 Lb.
Frozen Lobster Meat (11.3 Oz. Can)	\$9.99

DELI

Land O' Lakes White American Cheese	\$3.49 Lb.
Russer German Bologna	\$1.39 Lb.
Russer Virginia Baked Ham	\$2.99 Lb.
Hormel Genoa Salami	\$2.99 Lb.
Russer Kielbasa Loaf	\$2.69 Lb.
Tyson Skinless Turkey Breast	\$1.99 Lb.
Russer Low Salt Ham	\$3.49 Lb.
S&R Provolone Cheese	\$3.69 Lb.

PRODUCE

Washington State Red & Golden Delicious Apples	69¢ Lb.
Bananas	39¢ Lb.
Clementines (Large Size)	3 For \$1.00
Romaine Hearts (Package)	\$1.89
Canadian Carrots (5 Lb. Bag)	99¢
Large Slicing Tomatoes	99¢ Lb.

Tuesday & Wednesday SPECIALS

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or

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Westfield
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562-7311

Southwick
613 College Hwy.
569-0138

For Your Health



Your Back And Your Health

by Dr. Joseph
S. Schlaffer
Schlaffer
Chiropractic Offices
192 Shoemaker Lane
Agawam

The Healing Process

"Doctor, how long will it take me to get better?" This is one of the most frequently asked questions that I get. All patients want to get well as quickly as possible. Often they want to know what can be done to speed the healing process.

Since many problems are often the result of years of neglect or improper activities, the answer is not simple.

While there aren't any shortcuts to speed your body's natural healing process, here are some things you can do to give yourself the best chance of quick recovery.

Learn proper sitting and lifting methods. Specific exercises may be suggested to help retrain the muscles that support your spine.

Proper rest is an important aspect of the healing process, too. Get the appropriate amount of rest your body needs and avoid sleeping on your stomach.

During the healing process, proper nutrition is more important than ever. Make sure you eat balanced meals, and if you're overweight, now would be a good time to slim down and reduce unnecessary stresses to your spine.

Perhaps most important of all, keep your appointments and follow your chiropractic doctor's recommendation for optimum results.

Dr. Joseph Schlaffer and his wife, Dr. Katherine Schlaffer, have been helping sick people get well, naturally, for over 20 years. Call 789-1369 or 789-1073 for an appointment.

* * *

Our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon; however, we appreciate any articles, press releases, etc., that can be brought in or faxed to us on Mondays. Thank you ... AAN!!!

* * *



Food for Thought

by Nancy Dell
Registered Dietician

Using Herbs

In the United States, herbal products are regulated under the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act (DSHEA) by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

In 1994, DSHEA removed dietary supplements from the FDA's food additive category, so the burden of proof falls on the FDA to prove lack of safety rather than falling on the supplement manufacturer to prove safety.

"There are currently no federal regulations that establish specific criteria for purity, identification, and manufacturing procedures of dietary supplements," said Lori Love, Ph.D., Director of Clinical Research and Review Staff, Office of Special Nutritionals, FDA.

At the recent conference on medicinal herbs sponsored by the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, standardization of herbal products to remove some of the elements of "buyer beware" for consumers who use herbal products was a key issue.

Explains Clare Hasler, Ph.D., University of Illinois, "Analytical tests are necessary to determine if you are getting what the package says you are." To address these concerns, the U.S. Pharmacopeia is in the process of developing scientific monographs on herbal products.

Further, recommended Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs) for dietary supplement have been submitted for review and comment.

Not all herbal remedies are health promoting, and may even be dangerous. The FDA lists the following as "risky supplements": ephedra; chaparral, comfrey; DHEA; dieter's teas with senna, aloe, rhubarb root, buckthorn, cascara, and castor oil; pennyroyal and sassafras.

Echinacea for colds: "The purple coneflower" is thought to stimulate the immune system and enhance the effectiveness of white blood cells in

fighting viruses and bacteria.

According to speakers at a September 1998 NIH National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences conference on medicinal herbs, it ranks fourth among botanicals sold in the United States. Echinacea has been researched extensively in Europe, but very little research has been conducted on it in the United States.

Clinical trials have shown its effectiveness on frequency and severity of respiratory tract infections, but the studies on this herbal are not definitive. Recent data presented at the Fourth Annual Symposium of Complementary Health Care in Exeter, United Kingdom, showed echinacea is not efficacious against upper respiratory infections.

In the study of 302 people, there was no significant difference in the outcomes among those who received *E. angustifolia*, *E. purpurea* (both echinacea extracts), or placebo. Some studies suggest that echinacea should not be used for longer than two weeks, and it should be avoided by anyone with an autoimmune disorder, such as lupus or multiple sclerosis. Other studies have shown that some people may be allergic to the herb.

Ginseng (Panax ginseng): It has been purported that ginseng, among other effects, enhances physical capacity, alertness and concentration, and combats feelings of lethargy. Although animal studies have shown that ginseng at high dosage levels can have ergogenic and other metabolic effects, currently there is not enough data to definitively show similar results in humans.

Hermann J. Engels, Ph.D., F.A.C.S.M., Associate Professor of Exercise Physiology, Wayne State University, conducted two small clinical studies in the United States on healthy adult women (Nutrition Research, 16:1295, 1996) and a follow-up study on healthy men (Journal of the American Dietetic Association, 97:1110, 1997) to test ginseng's effect on aerobic work capacity.


Dr. Engels stated, "There is presently no strong research support available demonstrating ergogenic potential of ginseng in humans." It is evident that more studies are necessary to determine what effects, if any, ginseng has on human physiologic and psychological capacities.

As with any medication, consumers should always seek the advice of a physician and inform their health care provider of any herbal product usage.

Nancy Dell, MS, is a registered dietitian in private practice in Feeding Hills and the media representative for the Massachusetts Dietetic Association. She can be reached at 413-786-2957.

"For Your Health" is a weekly feature of The Agawam Advertiser News...

* * * * *




**common
ocular disorders
& macular
degeneration**

Lecture
with Mary Gina Ratchford, M.D.
and Brad Foster, M.D.


Wednesday, January 20, 1999
6:00 p.m.
Conference Room A
Noble Hospital

This lecture is free of charge.
Seating is limited and advance registration is required.
To register, call Noble Hospital's Health Beat at
413-568-2328



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(413) 789-0031

For Your Health - continued...

**Chiropractic
Care
by
Dr. Tami Nelson
Chiropractic
Physician
Hampden County
Chiropractic
850 Springfield St.
Feeding Hills
786-4820**

The Overlooked Injury...

Have you been in an accident lately, maybe a serious one or perhaps one not so serious? If you were in an accident and escaped with only a good shaking-up, a few cuts or bruises, and no broken bones, you may have felt that no other harm could have happened that you could detect and that all was well and you were pretty lucky. Probably you were!

Statistics prove that more accidents happen in the home than any other single place. Perhaps you were in the midst of holiday housecleaning and fell off the chair or ladder, or one of the children fell down the stairs and hurt himself. Many persons involved in accidents, who escape without fractures or serious injuries, never give their bodies another thought.

Many times one fails to remember that the spinal column must absorb much of the shock from every fall, accident, or strain. In doing so, the jar or jolt might have been such an invasive force that one or more of the spinal segments (bones of the spine) might have gotten "stuck" or "locked up" due to the muscle and ligaments tightening in the region. Meanwhile, our injured person gets up, shrugs his shoulders, and considers himself "lucky" and goes about his work.

Time passes on, and months and years go by and the person is not in good health. Symptoms of many varieties may be present. Meanwhile all of this time, the bones of the spine, jarred out of position by that accident and restricted in motion, have been exerting pressure on the involved nerves. The tissues and organs which are supplied by these nerves are now not functioning normally. (Proper quality and quantity of nerve impulses is vital for their normal function.)

The body cannot function normally unless the proper motion of the bones of the spine is restored and pressure removed from the nervous system. The body has within itself all the necessary means to maintain health and restore itself to health if sick, but the nervous system must be free from all interference so that control can be maintained and the nerve supply can flow freely from the brain to all organs and tissues.

If you or a family member is sick, look for the cause within. Once the cause is removed, the body can function normally and health can be restored. Have your spine checked for proper function to maintain optimum health.

Dr. Nelson maintains an office at Hampden County Chiropractic, 850 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, 786-4820.

Upcoming Support Groups, Courses, And Programs At Noble Hospital

SUPPORT GROUPS

Alcoholics Anonymous: Sunday evenings, 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. In Conference Room A at Noble Hospital, 115 West Silver Street, Westfield.

Free of charge. All are welcome.

Stroke Support Group: Wednesdays, January 13th and January 27th, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. In the Bronson Rehabilitation Center Dining Room at Noble Hospital.

Free of charge and open to individuals recovering from a stroke and their spouses or support persons.

On January 13th, Steve Rowan, Bronson Rehabilitation Program Director, will speak about Inpatient Rehab.

On January 27th, Jennifer Pottle, a Registered Occupational Therapist, will talk about Adaptive Equipment.

Diabetes Support Group: Tuesday, January 26th, 1:00 p.m. In Conference Room A at Noble Hospital.

Free of charge and open to individuals who have diabetes and their support persons.

At this meeting, Dr. Aliotta will address "What's New with Diabetes Neuropathy?"

"Better Breathers" Support Group: Wednesday, January 13th, 2:00 p.m. In the Third Floor Cardiopulmonary Classroom at Noble Hospital.

Free of charge and open to individuals with respiratory or pulmonary difficulties and their support persons.

At this meeting, Thomas A. Tremblay, R.R.T., C.P.F.T., will speak about "Living with Pulmonary Disease."

COURSES/CLINICS/PROGRAMS:

Free Athletic Injury Clinic: Thursdays, January 7th and January 21st, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. At Noble Hospital's Sports & Rehabilitation Center, 76 Main Street, Westfield.

During this clinic (which is held on the first, third, and fifth Thursdays of every month), athletic injuries are evaluated by a certified athletic trainer and, based upon the evaluation, remedial exercises or physician referral may be recommended.

For an appointment, call 562-3522.

Smoking Cessation - "Forgetting Cigarettes": Sundays, January 10th and January 17th, 7:00 to

8:30 p.m. In Conference Room B at Noble Hospital.

This 2-part program utilizes hypnosis to

* * *

**Best local
news...
AAN!!!**

* * *

eliminate your desire for smoking and allow you to forget cigarettes forever. Presented by Joe Barako, R.N. and Certified Hypnotherapist.

The registration fee for this program is \$40 and is paid the evening of the first session. Seating is limited, and pre-registration is necessary.

To pre-register or for more information, call Noble Hospital's Health Beat at (413) 568-2328.

CPR Course: Wednesdays, January 20th and January 27th, 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. In the Education Department/Ground Floor at Noble Hospital.

This two-part course provides American Heart Association Adult, Child, and Infant Certification. Cost of the course is \$45.

To register or obtain more information, call Noble Hospital's Education Department at (413) 572-5172.

"Menopause and You" - Lecture with Robert S. Wool, M.D.: Wednesday, January 13th, 6:00 p.m. In Conference Room A at Noble Hospital.

The lecture is free of charge. Seating is limited, and advance registration is required.

To register, call Noble Hospital's Health Beat at (413) 568-2328.

"Common Ocular Disorders & Macular Degeneration" - Lecture with Mary Gina Ratcliff, M.D., and Brad Foster, M.D.: Wednesday, January 20th, 6:00 p.m. In Conference Room A at Noble Hospital.

The lecture is free of charge. Seating is limited, and advance registration is required.

To register, call Noble Hospital's Health Beat at (413) 568-2328.

Cosmetic/Plastic Surgery with Dr. Gary Russolillo: Tuesday, January 19th, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. At Noble Hospital.

Gary E. Russolillo, MD, will present a lecture about Body Contouring Surgeries, Lip Enhancements, Facial Surgeries, and Skin Care Procedures. Also included will be a live chemical peel demonstration.

The presentation will be followed by a complimentary personal consultation. Registration is free, and seating is limited.

Pre-registration is required. To register, call Noble Hospital's Health Beat at (413) 568-2328.



menopause and you

**Lecture
with Robert S. Wool, M.D.**

**Wednesday, January 13, 1999
6:00 p.m.
Conference Room A
Noble Hospital**

This lecture is free of charge.

Seating is limited and advance registration is required.

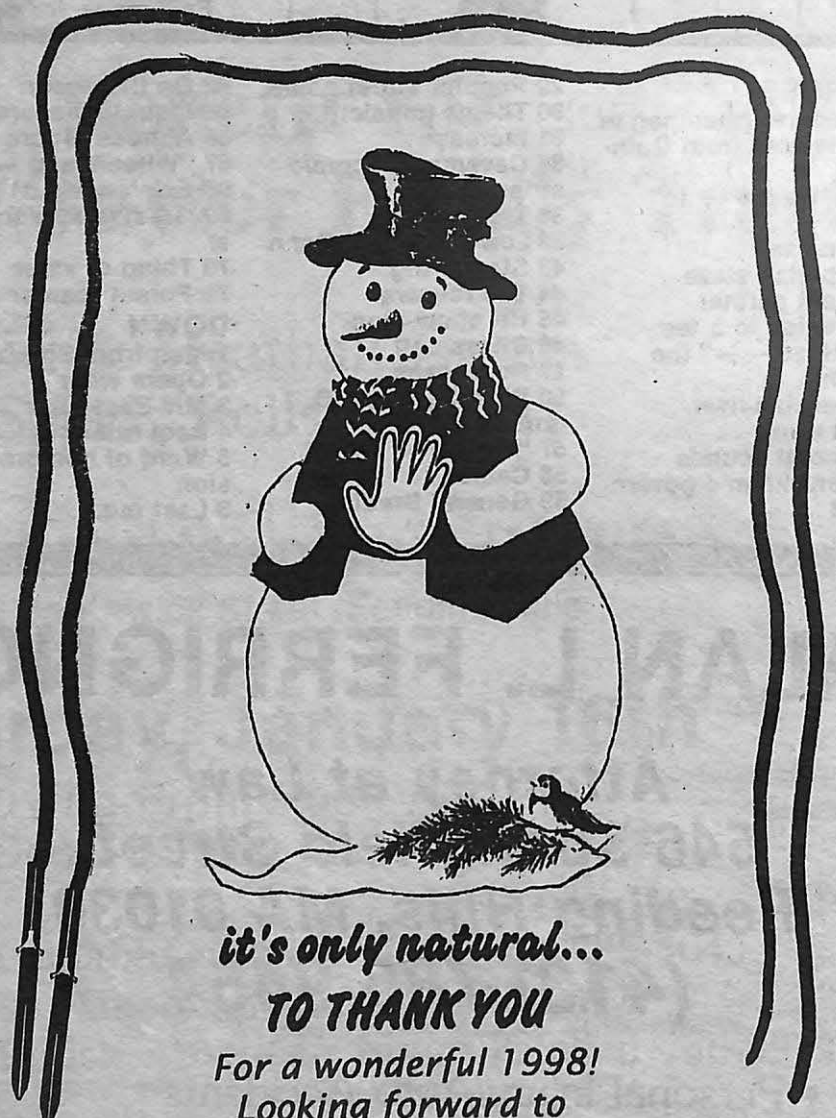
To register, call Noble Hospital's Health Beat at
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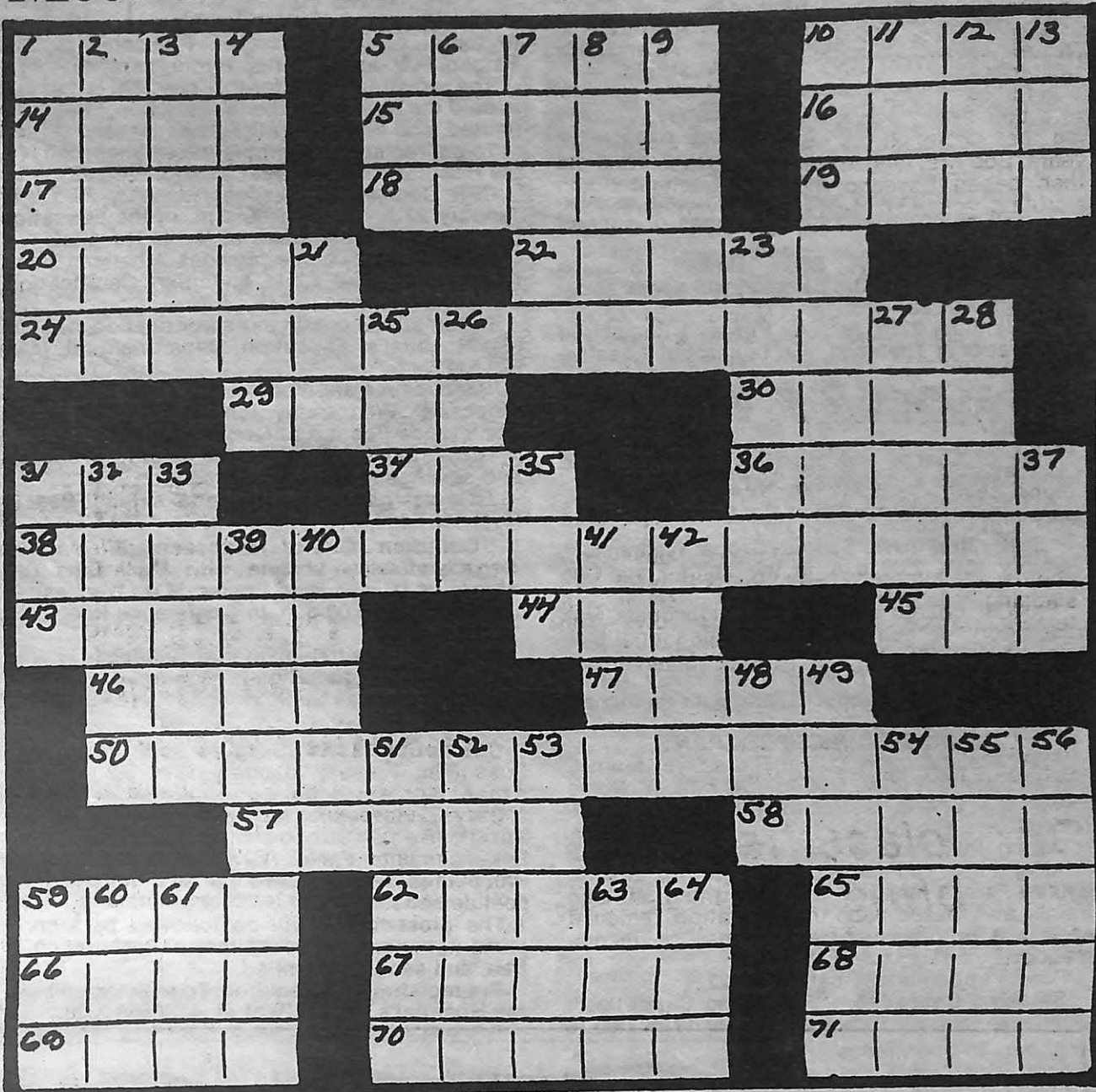
**For a wonderful 1998!
Looking forward to
seeing you in 1999!**

**Dr. Tami Nelson
Hampden County Chiropractic
850 Springfield Street
Feeding Hills, MA 01030
786-4820**

Many thanks to Ray Desrosiers

Arts

Meet The Master - by Dick Mastroianni...



ACROSS

- 1 Prepares champagne
- 5 President from Quincy
- 10 "Give the — to" (fire)
- 14 Vishna
- 15 Spartan slave
- 16 Rant partner
- 17 Copied to a tee
- 18 "Have ——" (be careful)
- 19 Russian river
- 20 In want
- 22 Throat sounds
- 24 Jerusalem's government

DOWN

- 29 Popular street name
- 30 Theme (music)
- 31 Increase
- 34 Caveman of comic strips
- 36 Type of type
- 38 Lower house in Bonn
- 43 Staggering
- 44 Tac follower
- 45 Hit show sign
- 46 Chess call
- 47 Possesses
- 50 Washington, D.C. group
- 57 "On the — hand"
- 58 Cables
- 59 General Bradley
- 62 On the ocean
- 65 Liquid measure
- 66 Actress Moore
- 67 "Wheels and —"
- 68 Existence (Lat.)
- 69 Greenland discoverer
- 70 Thing of value
- 71 Forest roamer

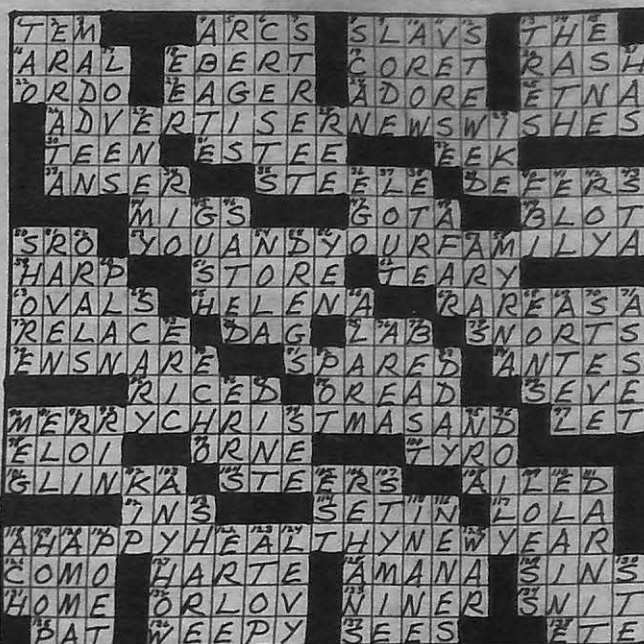
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Last Week's Solution...



- 35 "— up or shut up"
- 37 Often inflated thing
- 39 Type of heavenly showers
- 40 On one's toes
- 41 Lunch time
- 42 Morning moistures
- 48 Word preceding England or York
- 49 Took pot shots
- 51 "If ——— hammer" (C&W song)
- 52 Gives in
- 53 Regions
- 54 Spring up
- 55 On edge
- 56 Chemical compound
- 59 "— to Billy Joe"
- 60 Sea to Debussy
- 61 French friend
- 63 Aisle in Paris
- 64 San Diego's time zone

January 22nd Fundraiser To Benefit Theater Proj.

A fundraising event to be held on behalf of the Theater Project will feature The Majestics, singers, and musicians from the acclaimed *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story*. On January 22, 1999, performers Ben Ashley, Stacy Ashley, Ivy Balch, Dave Healey, Tom Ingram, Tim Hosmer, Aaron Porchelli, Don Rovero, and Doug Wallace, led by musical director Mitch Chakour, will entertain from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 midnight at The Colosseum in West Springfield.

Tickets are \$25 each, and can be obtained by calling or visiting the box office at the Majestic Theater.

Box office hours at the Majestic Theater are Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 2:00 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, 4:00-8:00 p.m., and Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. The telephone number is (413) 747-7797.

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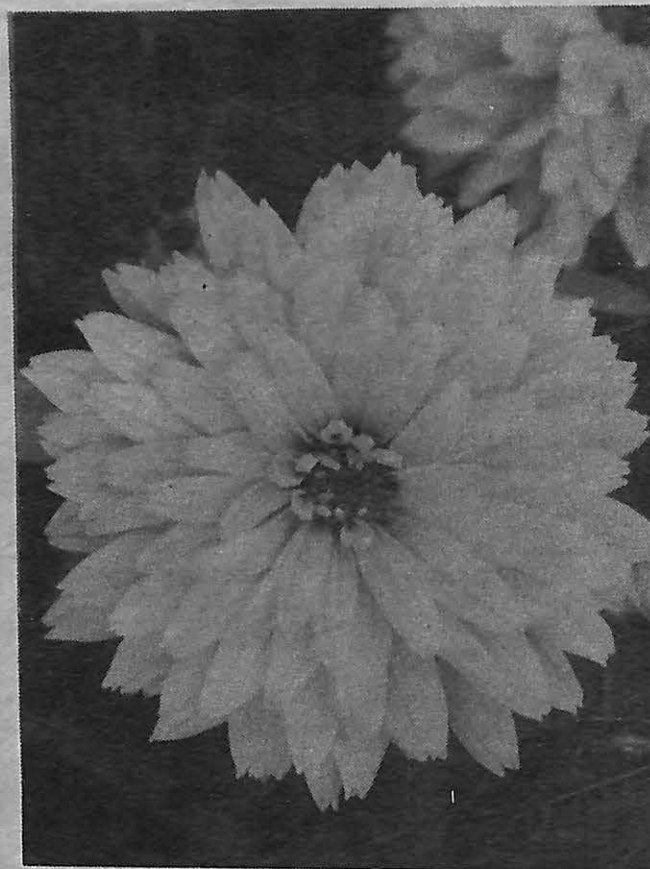
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All age groups are invited to join us. For more information, please call Christa at 786-0143.

If you are unable to attend, but still would like to contribute, send donations to Woronoco Savings Bank c/o Taylor Family Trust, P.O. Box 266, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.



Education

Sixth-Graders Find The True Meaning Of The Holidays

The sixth-grade students in Room 303 of the Agawam Middle School, whose teachers are Mrs. Conboy and Mrs. Holl, played Santa this season. They decided by way of a classwide vote to "adopt" a family through the Agawam Junior Women's Club's Holiday Basket Program.

The students brought in small stocking-stuffer gifts as well as other toys, gifts, and cash. They were so generous that the teachers, along with the teaching assistant from the class, were able to purchase two complete outfits of warm clothing for each of the children in their "adopted" family.

After all the gifts had been gathered, the class worked cooperatively in small groups to wrap the presents — and there were plenty! Two huge bags (and two very plump stockings) full of the love and generosity of this group of 28 students, were delivered to the AJWC in time for the holidays.

It is truly encouraging to witness this type of caring in our young students. Virtues, such as those possessed by everyone in Room 303, are what make our community rich and the holidays brighter.

MIRROR - from Page 1...

Most Profound Change

But, the paper experienced its most profound change during the Vietnam and Watergate eras, when the focus shifted more toward hard news coverage in addition to the typical student newspaper fare of stories originating at the High School.

"Today, we deal much more with hard news in the feature section of the paper," O'Brien said. "We didn't do that at all from the '20's through the '60's, except during World War II."

Associate Editor Kristen Kocot thinks students in the paper's early years did not think it was proper to write the kinds of controversial stories carried in the modern editions of the *Mirror*. "I prefer our way of getting everything out, but back then they couldn't. Now we can write about controversial things and that's better for the people who read the paper."

Photography Editor Jen Niedziela sees a general shift in attitude between an article written in 1928 when the principal was asked a series of questions on the expectations of parents, educators, and students, and the 1998 version giving Principal Joseph Zabielski's answers to the same questions.

"Now, the answers were more to the point and direct. In 1928, the answers were more laid back and lighthearted," Jen said.

In going through the archives, Features Editor Sarah Latif discovered that some things were most interesting to the students in days gone by than they would be to the students today. "It was interesting to learn about things that happened at the High School over the years," Sarah said.

Sports Editor Jay Plamondon found the sportswriting from the past to be less colorful than modern sportswriting. "Back then, the articles were straight out; they didn't use words to jazz it up and make it more interesting," Jay noted.

Also, the typically low scores reported for high school basketball games in the past compared to today's high scoring games indicate a change in the style of the game, Jay said.

Remembering her years on the *Mirror*, Jeanne O'Neil credited the paper's success to the efforts of their faculty advisor. "Mr. O'Brien really gets the kids motivated to do the work," Jeanne said. "Brenna's doing a great job and I kind of like to see the tradition of women as editors-in-chief continuing."

Michael McCormick On J & W's Dean's List

Johnson & Wales University has announced that Michael McCormick of 86 Channell Drive in Agawam was among students named to the Dean's List for the fall term ending in November.

McCormick is majoring in Culinary Arts

To receive Dean's List commendation, students must earn a cumulative grade point average of 3.40 or above.

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With an enrollment of more than 11,500 students, Johnson & Wales is based in Providence, Rhode Island, and maintains campuses in Charleston, South Carolina, Norfolk, Virginia, North Miami, Florida, and Vail, Colorado.



STUDENTS IN ROOM 303 of the Agawam Middle School class of Mrs. Conboy, Mrs. Holl, and Mrs. Patrick, holding some of their Christmas gifts for their "adopted" family. Back row: Rachel Mozdzanowski, Katie Tapply, Sara Pioggia, Julia Weisgerber, Joe Deluca, Kyli Williams, Jamie Cullen, Tony Boido, Seth Gregor, Josh Docherty, Kaylie Paquette, Joe B'Shara, Kyle Reed, Myles Norman, and Bill Bertrand. Front row: Mark Leclair, Bryan Riley, Michele Elsner, Courtney Garrett, Jon Gibbons, Katelyn Lavalley, Joe Sticco, Derek Myers, and Kevin Clark. (Missing from photo: Alison Stanton, Catherine Andrews, Barbara Brissolari, and Matt Sadowski.)

Webelos Meet With State Rep. Dan Keenan

As part of earning their Citizen Pin, the Second-Year Webelos of Cub Scout Pack 85 met with State Representative Dan Keenan during their den meeting on Friday, November 13th.

Many issues concerning the state were

discussed, but the ones that interested the boys the most were the ones about education. The scouts got to give their viewpoints on the issues and learned about the legislative process as they completed the requirements for the pin.

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Spring classes start the week of January 25. Tuition is only \$73 per credit!

Attend registration and information sessions on January 12 & January 14, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Powdermill Middle School on Route 57 in Southwick. Or call 552-2950 for more information or to register.



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GRANGER FIRST-GRADERS were enthralled by the “feathered friends” of Thomas Ricardi from the Massachusetts Birds of Prey Rehab. Facility in Conway, Massachusetts.

“Birds Of Prey” Program
Presented At Granger School

The Granger School first-graders in Ms. Liptak’s and Mrs. Carra’s classes recently enjoyed a special “Birds of Prey” program. The program was conducted by Thomas Ricardi from the Massachusetts Birds of Prey Rehab. Facility in Conway, Mass.

Mr. Ricardi explained to the children that the birds in his facility are not pets, but were injured and cannot be released to the wild.

The birds which he brought to show included a screech owl; a 30 year-old, red-tailed hawk (the largest in our area); a kestrel falcon; a saw-whet

owl (the smallest in New England); a barn owl (also known as the monkey-faced owl); and a bald eagle, who builds the largest nest of the birds of prey.

The bald eagle, which seemed to be the favorite of the children, was 34-inches tall, 14 pounds, and had a wing span of seven feet.

In addition to seeing the birds, the children also saw the different types of feathers, eggs, and pellets.

The children also had a chance to become “stars of the show.” Sy Becker, from Channel 22 News, interviewed several of the students after the program. Most thought that the program was “cool” and were excited to get such a close-up view of the birds.

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AGAWAM MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHERS
Jeanne Forgette and Lou Spiro.

Middle Schoolers Benefit From “Living History”

by Kathy Shepard
AAN Feature Writer

A special community project is a first of its kind, integrating a new philosophy called the “Eden Alternative” into the curriculum at Agawam Middle School.

Kim George, director of Volunteer Services and Eden Alternative Educator at Genesis ElderCare in Agawam, has worked with the Agawam Middle School on many projects, and it seemed logical to involve the school in the Eden Alternative, bringing educational reform’s goal for community involvement together with the Eden Alternative.

Hence, the concept of “living history”: Middle School students meeting with the elderly, as resources of living history, bringing the classroom into the nursing center.

There are only 60 nursing homes in the United States officially registered with the Eden Alternative®, an honor society for nursing homes and assisted living facilities. These homes have met certain standards and are officially registered sites. Heritage Woods at the Heritage Hall campus is an official site. The philosophy of the Eden Alternative is to work toward eliminating loneliness, helplessness, and boredom in nursing centers.

The goal of the Eden Alternative is to alleviate these by creating habitats with a home-like atmosphere by introducing plants, children, and animals. Music should be introduced into the environment, and there should be variety and spontaneity. A nurturing environment in which people have the opportunity to grow is the overall ideal. Kim George has worked on many intergenerational projects and finds that every one adds its own special quality to the Eden Alternative.

Agawam Middle School teachers Lou Spiro and Jeanne Forgette have been working with students of the fifth grade at the Agawam Middle School to create intergenerational community involvement

“Early Childhood STEP” Prog. Offered At Agawam Library

One of the nation’s most popular parent education programs, *Early Childhood STEP - Systematic Training for Effective Parenting of Children Under Six*, will be offered at the Agawam Public Library.

Sessions will begin on Thursday, January 14th and will continue for six weeks on Thursday nights from 6:30 to 8:00. Each session will consist of presentation of a topic to be followed by discussion and refreshments.

Early Childhood STEP can help parents foster confidence and cooperation in children from the start. Meeting with other parents in an atmosphere of mutual support, you will learn how to build self-esteem, discipline effectively, and deal with common concerns like tantrums, toilet training, mealtime behavior, and much more.

The presentation of this program is funded by the Community Partnerships for Children Grant. This program is open to all residents of Agawam and Feeding Hills. Registration is limited, and may be done in person, or by calling the library at 789-1550.



FIFTH-GRADE STUDENTS of Jeanne Forgette and Lou Spiro (above and below) have been working to create intergenerational community involvement with the residents of Heritage Hall Centers. This kind of community involvement is part of the goal of the “Eden Alternative,” an honor society for nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Among the activities involving both the youngsters and the elderly was the children singing Christmas carols at Heritage Hall.



with the residents of Heritage Hall Centers.

Learning Potential Holds Great Promise...

The learning potential from putting any two generations together for community involvement holds great promise. The interaction between these two particular generations is a sociological phenomenon. The students will learn history and individual viewpoints from these older resources on World War II, the Vietnam War, the Depression, and many other subtle changes and cultural trends.

Spiro credits Middle School Principal Ralph Zavarella with making the program possible for the students by scheduling visits, providing administrative support, and being open to innovation. Intergenerational learning is beneficial to the students, who are keeping journals on the history they learn and their own reactions to it.

The goal of a home-like atmosphere at Heritage has included birds and cats, but the presence of the young people and the activities taken on together by these two age groups have really helped. The week before Christmas, students and residents made Christmas ornaments and donated them to the Giving Tree in Tower Square

in downtown Springfield.

And in the spring, they will put on a production which will include music from the era best known to the residents of Heritage.

Probably the most inspirational event so far, however, apparently for both age groups, was on December 16th, when the students caroled at Heritage Hall. The students had been practicing their singing during studies at school. Volunteer parents drove students to Heritage South Building and Heritage Woods, where the kids literally “exploded into music, and the residents joined in,” according to Spiro, who felt that “it turned out to be a wonderful experience, one very difficult to describe.”

One student summarized the feelings in her journal as “a warm, fuzzy experience.”

There is a feeling of seasonal magic, a magic that will not stop after the holidays. With commitment and dedication to allow intergenerational events and relationships to form, the Middle School students will be using resources that just might supercede the mighty computer. Watch out, K2000! Computers won’t compare to these living history resources.

Stephen O’Leary Wins School-Level Geography Bee At Academy Hill School

Stephen O’Leary of Agawam, a fifth-grade student at Academy Hill, won the school-level competition of the National Geography Bee on December 23rd, and a chance at a \$25,000 college scholarship.

The school-level Bee, at which students answered oral questions on geography, was the first round in the 11th annual National Geography Bee. The Bee is sponsored by the National Geographic Society and BANK ONE.

School winners, including Stephen, will now take a written test; up to 100 of the top scorers in each state and territory will be eligible to compete in their state Bee on April 9th.

State champions and their teachers will receive

an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. for state champions and their teacher-escorts to participate in the National Geography Bee championship on May 25th and 26th. The first-place national winner will receive a \$25,000 scholarship. Alex Trebek, host of “Jeopardy!”, will moderate the national finals on May 26th.

Sophia Olender, a fourth-grade student from Longmeadow, was the runner-up.

Academy Hill School, located at 275 Maple Street on the MacDuffie campus in Springfield, is an independent elementary school serving bright, curious, and gifted children in kindergarten through grade six.

For more information, call 788-0300.

For photo coverage in The Agawam Advertiser News, contact photographer Jack Devine at 789-0053.

Southwick Elves Visit Granger School

On December 22nd, the first-graders in Mrs. Carra's class at Granger School were pleasantly surprised by a visit from Santa's elves. The first-graders wrote letters to Santa in early December.

As we all know, Santa is very busy this time of year, so he sent his sixth-grade elves from Mr. Carra's class at Powder Mill Middle School in Southwick to respond to the letters.

The elves read their letters to the delight of the first-graders. Each first-grader received a candy cane along with his letter.

Several of the elves read the story "Jolly Old Santa Claus." Everyone joined in sharing food and in singing some favorite holiday songs.

Thank you to the Southwick elves for making our holiday season a happier one.

Agawam Receives D.A.R.E. Grant

State Representative Daniel F. Keenan is pleased to announce the awarding of a \$13,000 D.A.R.E. grant to Agawam.

D.A.R.E. provides drug prevention education from uniformed police officers as well as lessons on personal safety, enhancing self-esteem, assertiveness, and decision-making.

"This grant will assist Agawam in their efforts to provide a positive message to our community's youth," stated Keenan.

Police departments throughout Massachusetts use D.A.R.E. grants for tobacco prevention and cessation initiatives, violence prevention programs, recreational activities, teen dating violence awareness, delinquency, and gang suppression.

PRIOR TO THE CHRISTMAS VACATION, Mrs. Carra's first-graders at Granger School were visited by Santa's "elves" (a.k.a. sixth-grade students from Powder Mill Middle School in Southwick). Because Santa is so busy just prior to Christmas Eve, these Southwick "elves" were all too happy to travel to Feeding Hills on his behalf. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

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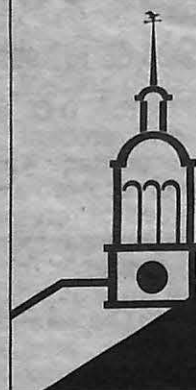
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Happy Retirement!



MRS. CATHERINE HALLAMAN (above), a school nurse at Agawam High School for 31 years, officially started her retirement on December 22nd. On December 3rd, members of the AHS faculty held a surprise retirement party in her honor at Crestview Country Club. Although she says she will miss her friends at the school, Mrs. Hallaman was looking forward to her retirement and hopes to do anything she wants. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Registration For STCC's Evening Classes At AHS

Registration will begin Monday, January 11th, at the Springfield Technical Community College campus for spring semester STCC evening courses to be held at Agawam High School.

Registration will be offered at the high school only on the first evening of classes, pending seat availability. Classes will begin on Tuesday, January 26th.

A selection of STCC's most popular courses will again be offered in Agawam for the convenience of area residents. Credit courses are scheduled from 6:15 to 9:15 p.m., or 6:00 to 9:45 p.m., depending on the number of credits. The semester ends May 11th.

Credit courses are offered on Tuesday evenings and include Microcomputer Applications for Windows, Visual Basic 1, Principles of Management, English Composition 1, Elementary Spanish 2, and Introduction to Sociology.

Registration at the STCC campus is available in person, or by phone, by mail, or by fax. Registration hours starting January 11th are Monday, Tuesday, and Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Wednesday and Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Starting January 19th, registration hours will be Monday to Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Payment may be made by check, VISA, Discover, or MasterCard.

Registration at Agawam High School will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 26th. Textbooks will be available for purchase at the first meeting of each class.

For further information, call STCC Continuing Education at 781-1315, or visit the STCC website at www.stcc.mass.edu.

Our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon; however, we appreciate any articles that can be brought in or faxed to us on Mondays.

Phelps Students Hold Moon Samples

On December 17th, the third-grade classes at Phelps School were treated to a slide presentation and exhibit on Moon missions by NASA.

Mrs. Cecchi, a third-grade teacher at Phelps, invited Mrs. Cheryl DeSpirt-Lambert, Assistant Principal at Chestnut Middle School in Springfield, and Mr. William Clark, a science teacher at Chestnut, to bring the Moon rocks and share them with the children.

The slide presentation included many of the Apollo missions and showed the children how the moon samples were obtained by using the Lunar Dune Buggy to get around, and a special rake to collect samples.

The exhibit includes many pictures from the Kennedy Space Center, a Moon ball, and replicas of the spacesuits and launch missile. The most exciting part of the exhibit was to hold the lunar samples. There were three soil samples and three rock samples.

Mr. Clark, along with 33 other Massachusetts teachers, took a four-day workshop at the Kennedy Space Center last April. Upon completion of the workshop, they were "lunar rock certified" by NASA.

Only certified people are allowed to use the lunar sample discs, and only if they meet certain criteria. They must have a safe available that is bolted to the floor and has at least three combination locks on it.

They must also promise that they will be the only two people with access to the sample. The disc is also carried in a locked metal case.

The actual samples are encased in a fiberglass material so they are never exposed to air. No lunar samples are ever directly handled. NASA stores all lunar samples at the Johnson Space Center in Texas.

The children also enjoyed playing basketball with the Moon ball, doing a floor puzzle of the



PHELPS TEACHER Barbara Cecchi (far left) with Cheryl DeSpirt-Lambert and William Clark during the slide presentation on NASA's Moon missions. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

solar system, and looking at the display of books and other information.

An exciting and fun afternoon was had by all. Each child had an opportunity to hold the rock disc and was presented with a certificate that stated, "I held part of the Moon in my hands."

Savings Bond Winner



ALEXIS CHRETIEN (above) was the recent winner of a \$50 savings bond for being chosen as "Student of the Month" for November at Agawam Junior High School. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Noted Art Students



ANDREA GREANY AND ALEX BAKHAREN were recently commended as "Art Students of the Month" for November at Agawam Junior High School. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Update On Upcoming Sixth-Grade Trip To New York, Washington, D.C., & Philadelphia

Welcome to 1999! In just a few short months, the sixth-graders will be off to New York, Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia.

If any student travelers need more candy, please contact Rachel Thomas at 786-9896, as she has received a shipment which will have to be dispersed or returned to the company.

A second payment is due now that it is January. With January's payment, each traveler should have a total of \$250 paid, including candy money credits. (The final price for students is \$375 with all meals, admissions, tips, etc. included; chaperones' price is \$367 for double occupancy,

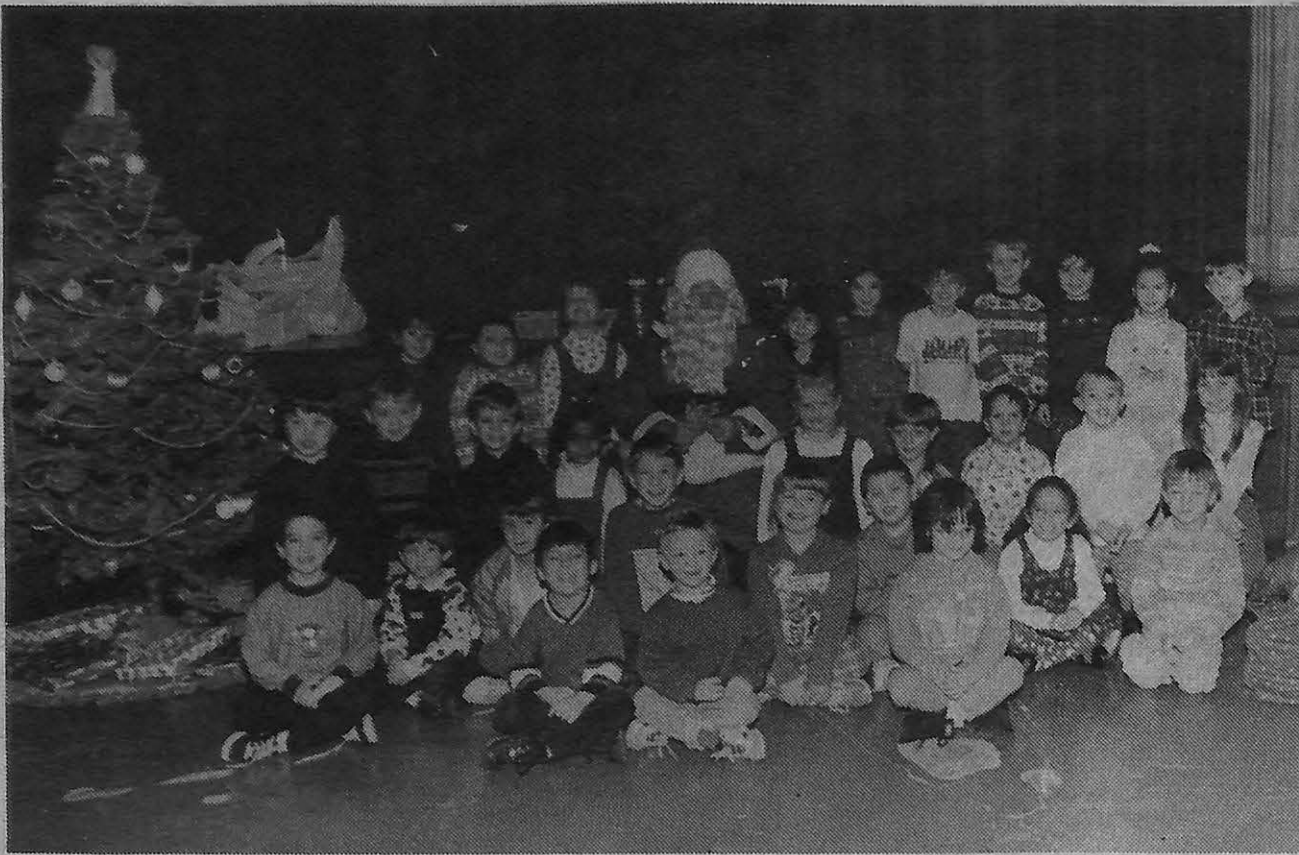
which includes everything except a few meals.)

There are a couple of student spots available, so if you have been contemplating joining the group, now is the time to act.

There will be a chaperone meeting later this month. You will be contacted individually. Students will have their meeting coming up in late February. Watch for the notice through the *Agawam Advertiser News* as well as a notice through school.

Any questions, comments, or concerns, call Rachel Thomas at 786-9896.

Santa Claus Pays A Visits To Phelps School...



ON DECEMBER 14TH, Santa Claus visited the children at Phelps Elementary School. Candy canes were given to each child, courtesy of Christo's Restaurant. Pencils were also given to the youngsters, courtesy of the Phelps P.T.O. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

Registration Slated For Agawam Adult Ed.'s Winter Semester

Registration for the Winter Semester of the Agawam Adult Education Program will be held on Tuesday, January 12th, and Wednesday, January 13th, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Agawam High School Guidance Office.

Registration will also be held during the first week of classes on Tuesday, January 19th, and Wednesday, January 20th, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Agawam High School Guidance Office.

The following is a list of courses and the nights they are being offered this semester:

Monday Classes:

English 11
English 12
General Science
World History
EXCEL
Algebra I
Power Point/Access

Tuesday Class:

Microsoft WORD II

Wednesday Classes:

English 9
English 10
U.S. History
Chemistry
General Math
Computer Concepts
Microsoft WORD I
Oil Painting

Classes will begin on Tuesday, January 19th, and run for 10 weeks, ending on or about April 1st. (Please note: the first Monday classes will meet on Tuesday, January 19th, because of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on Monday, January 18th.)

Each class will last from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., and all Agawam Adult Education classes are held at Agawam High School, 760 Cooper Street, Agawam.

The tuition charge is \$70 per course and payable at the time of registration. No refunds will be given after the second class meeting. Tuition will be refunded if there is an insufficient number of students registered for a course(s). The administration reserves the right to cancel a course(s) for lack of registration.

Those persons interested in working toward a high school diploma should bring with them a transcript of any course work completed since ninth grade.

In addition to Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, no classes will be held on Monday, February 15th, Tuesday, February 16th, and Wednesday, 17th, due to this week being the Agawam school system's mid-winter vacation.

In regard to notification of school closing, if Agawam schools are closed because of inclement weather, evening school is also canceled. Local radio stations will also announce any cancellations, and make-up days for inclement weather will be scheduled during the term.

If you have any questions regarding the Agawam Adult Education Program, call Paul C. Cavallo, Program Director, at 821-0522 or 821-0527.

Sample MCAS Questions Are Available From State Rep. Dan Keenan's Office

State Representative Daniel F. Keenan took the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) test, students in the fourth, eighth, and 10th grades took their MCAS tests, and now you have the opportunity to sample the test. Contact Keenan's district office to receive a brochure with three sample questions from the test.

Students who took the test in May of 1998 reported that these were the toughest tests they had ever taken. The content was challenging, the length of time for the test was demanding, and the standards on which the tests were based are not yet fully implemented in every school and district. The subjects of the MCAS tests administered were English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science & Technology.

The results from the MCAS are a powerful tool. MCAS results provide invaluable information for diagnosing strengths and needs of individual students, schools, and districts, as well as a baseline to measure future improvements. The statewide results have been released, and it is clear from these results more work needs to be done.

To receive a copy of the MCAS brochure which contains sample questions, or more information about the MCAS, contact Keenan's district office at (413) 786-4545.

MCAS measures the performance of students, schools, and districts on the academic learning standards contained in the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, fulfilling requirements of the Education Reform Law of 1993.

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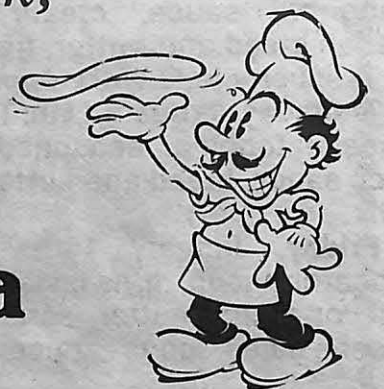
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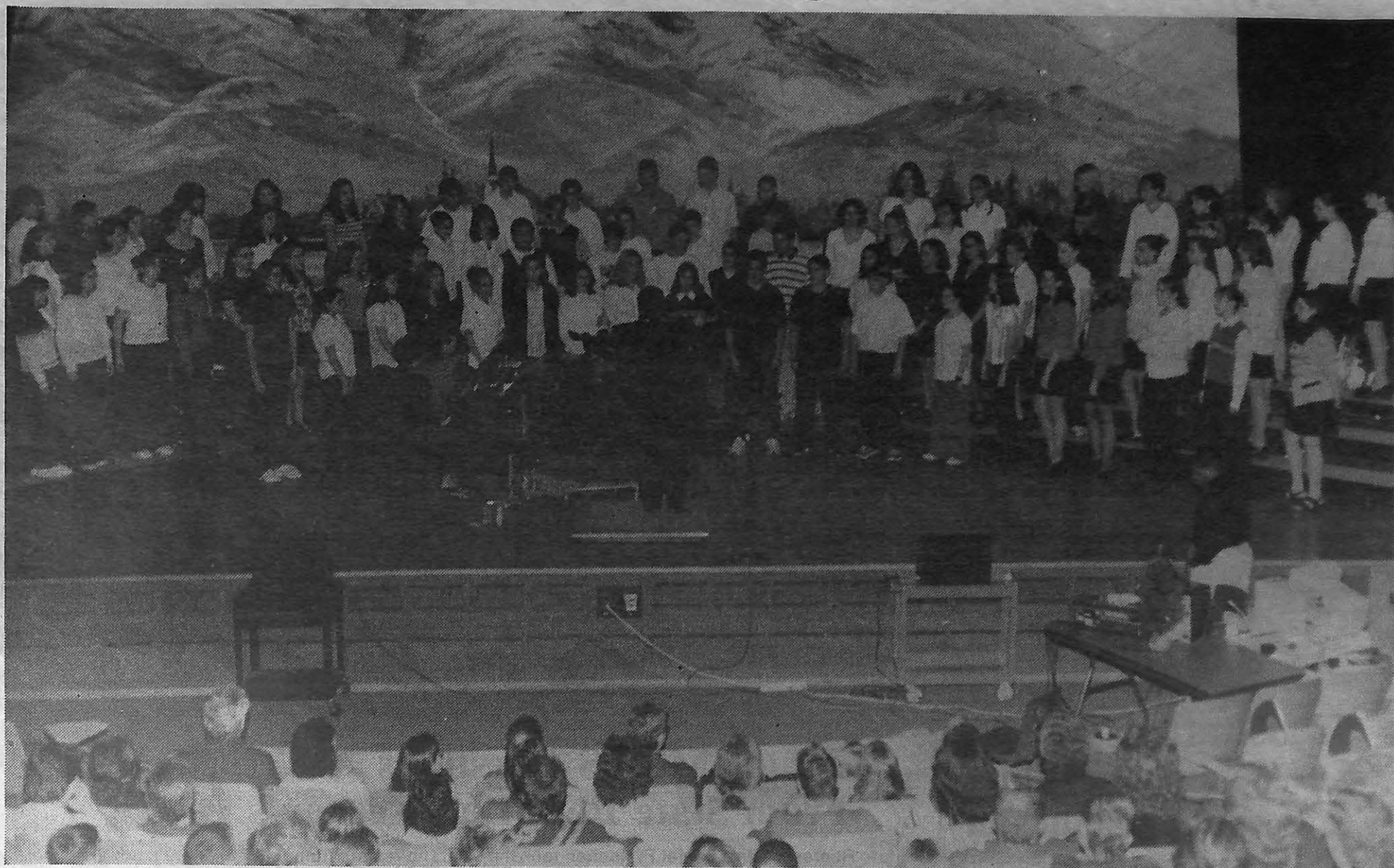
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Christmas Entertainment By Eighth-Grade Chorus...



THE EIGHTH-GRADE CHORUS at Agawam Junior High School, under the direction of Susan Brown, brightened the spirits of everyone in the audience with their recently held holiday concert. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Agawam Schools' Weekly Lunch Menu

Monday, January 11th: Pepperoni-topped pizza, tossed garden salad with spinach greens and dressing, chilled diced pears, milk.

Tuesday, January 12th: Scrambled hamburger with creamy gravy on whipped potatoes, seasoned carrots, rye bread and butter, peanut butter cookie, milk.

Wednesday, January 13th: Rotini with spaghetti sauce, creamy cole slaw, Italian bread and butter, fresh Mac apple or raspberry jello with topping, milk.

Thursday, January 14th: Taco boat with cheese topping, seasoned niblet corn, taco sauce, bread and butter, apple crisp, milk.

Friday, January 15th: Tomato and macaroni soup, tuna salad sandwich in roll or Fluffernutter sandwich, tossed greens salad, ice cream cup, milk.

(Tickets may be purchased on Monday in the elementary schools for the week. Meal price is \$1.10 daily. If paying by check, make check out to "Agawam School Lunch.")

Agawam High School Guidance Bulletin

College Acceptances: Congratulations!
Kara Tierney: Bryant College, University of Hartford

Yuri Lukin: Western New England College
Michael Carney: Westfield State College
Greg Jubinville: Western New England College
Robert Welch: Husson College
Shelley Rose: Western New England College
Thomas Shibley: Mass. Maritime Academy
Brian Rondeau: Rochester Institute of Technology
Jasjit Gotra: Western New England College

Scholarships: See your counselor for more information or an application.

National Kidney Foundation Scholarships: 12 scholarships of \$700 each will be awarded to applicants who are kidney disease patients or have an immediate relative (sibling, parent/guardian, child) who is a kidney disease patient. **Deadline:** March 31, 1999.

Mensa Essay Contest: Awards for this scholarship are made on the basis of an essay that describes the applicant's career, vocational, or academic goals. It is not necessary that the applicant be a member of Mensa. **Deadline:** January 31, 1999.

Mass. Council on Alcohol Concerns Essay Contest: To enter this contest, a student must write a 600- to 1,200-word essay on theme, "Be a Winner Without Alcohol." The competition is open to students in Massachusetts public and private schools in grades nine through 12. **Deadline:** March 1, 1999.



JEFFREY BEAUDETTE

Jeffrey Beaudette To Attend Princeton

Jeffrey Beaudette, son of Daniel and Patricia Beaudette of Agawam, has been accepted and will attend Princeton University in Princeton, New Jersey.

He is currently a senior at Suffield Academy in Suffield, Connecticut, where he is the Student Council president, Editor-in-Chief of the school newspaper, a Tour Guide Leader, a member of the Disciplinary Committee, and Torch Society.

He is also a Peer Tutor in mathematics and Latin, as well as a teaching assistant.

Jeffrey was recently presented the Yale Book Award, which is given for outstanding "Personal Character and Intellectual Promise." He was also notified of being an AP Scholar with Honor and commended National Merit Scholarship winner.

He is a varsity athlete in football, basketball, and track.

Jeffrey is the grandson of Mr. & Mrs. Leo Beaudette of West Springfield, and Mr. Carmelo DeCosmo and the late "Kay" DeCosmo of Agawam.

FOR COPIES OF HIS PHOTOS IN THIS EDITION, please call photographer Jack Devine at 789-0053. He has all the negatives, and he will be glad to assist you ... ADVERTISER NEWS!!!



Sports

Brownies Win Barnburner In Wilbraham...

Shannon's Banker, Torrid Defense Push AHS Past Falcons, 44-37

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

Utilizing a combination of good defense, timely rebounding, and a little bit of luck, Agawam High beat Minnechaug Regional, the two-time defending Division I state champs, on Tuesday evening, 44-37, in Wilbraham.

When it was over, Brownie Coach Lou Conte, celebrating his 213th career win, praised the AHS girls (7-0, 2-0) when they were settled down for the bus ride home. "You played a tough team at their place and you stepped up in every aspect of the game. I'm proud of you."

Indeed they did and he had every right to be proud. The Falcons, the two-time WMass champs as well, let people know of their state title accomplishment with that fact emblazoned on the back of their warm-ups. The Brownies knew the night would be one of high emotion and heroics in what has become the hottest basketball rivalry in the region over the past three years.

Those heroics occurred throughout the game and really kicked in with seconds to go, the winner in doubt, and time running out.

Both clubs started by coming out up-tempo and in a man-to-man defense. The Brownies were bothering Minnechaug with quick hands and even quicker anticipation. The Falcons had seven turnovers at the 9:44 mark, as opposed to Agawam's three. The score at the time was 3-2, visitors, at-testing to the intensity at the defensive ends of the court.

The Falcons were up, 6-3, with just under eight minutes gone and shooting 2-6 from the field as opposed to Agawam's 1-10. The Brownies turned it up a bit with a press led by Jill Gendron and Barbara Maloni. That prompted an Agawam run. Hoops by senior Pia Bertone-Gross (nine points) and Melissa Cote (six points) made it 13-11, Minnechaug, with four minutes to go. The pace was frantic. And the crowd (a full house) loved it.

A Cote deuce tied things at 13 with two minutes left. The Falcons took the lead, 15-13, on two Melissa Kowalski (19 points) free throws with 1:39 to go. Minnechaug was up, 16-13, when Bertone-Gross popped a jumper and Maloni got a bunny, ending the half, 17-16, Agawam.

Attempting To Shake Up Falcon Defenders...

Agawam came out in the second half and began to work screens both inside and outside in

an attempt to shake up the Falcons' defenders. That really didn't work the way Conte wanted, as Minnechaug led 21-19 with 3:20 off the clock. A Maloni lay-up evened things at 21-21 a minute later and Agawam, trying different looks, switched to a match-up zone.

Maloni, who had 15 points, then lofted in a lay-up, got fouled, hit that, and Agawam (which had been down, 25-21, seconds earlier) drew to within one with 9:14 left. Bertone-Gross was then fouled and drained both shots, giving Agawam the lead once again.

Cote, who had a big night on the boards with 15 (five of them offensive), popped a deuce from 20 feet out, putting the Brownies up, 28-25. With Agawam up, 30-27, with 5:27 to go, Maloni stole the ball, went the length of the court, and got hacked (but no foul was called). Alertly, she let the incident pass and found a cutting Jill Gendron for the lay-up, making it 32-27.

A deuce by 6'4" center Maureen Leahy (who was in foul trouble throughout), made it 36-34, Brownies. Junior point guard Katie Shannon (seven points) got those two back 20 seconds later. But the Falcons, playing before the home folks, wouldn't go away. Kowalski launched a bomb way downtown on the left wing. The trey brought the Falcons to within one with 1:35 to go.

Maloni, who'd been defended well all game long, drove for the hoop, got fouled, and hit one of two. Agawam led, 39-37. There were 76 ticks left on the clock. Agawam was grimly holding on now, playing perhaps their toughest "D" of the night. They forced a Minnechaug miss and had the ball. A miss down their end would have given the taller and bigger Falcons another opportunity and a chance to tie or take the lead if they threw up a three.

That wouldn't happen. Shannon and Maloni would take care of business. Time was running out, both on the game clock and the shot clock. Shannon had the ball and one eye on that shot clock. The Minnechaug defenders were jamming the passing lanes and playing inside the Brownies' shirts. There were two seconds on the shot clock, and Shannon was two feet outside

three-point land at the top of the key.

The Coaches Were Going Nuts...

Conte was going nuts, as was Falcons' Coach Dave Yelle. Shannon lofted it towards the hole. The ball banked off the backboard for a three. That brought down the house, with the Brownie fans going wild and the huge Minnechaug partisans giving off a collective groan. The banker gave the Brownies a 42-37 lead.

"I knew it was my shot and I knew I had to take it," Shannon smiled. "Maybe there was a little bit of luck involved. But that happens sometimes," she added.

It was the Falcons' ball with 38 seconds left. Luck can happen both ways. They were hoping the lightning would strike them. It did, in the form of Maloni, who stole the ball with 10 seconds to go, was immediately fouled, and hit both shots, giving Agawam the hard-fought victory.

Later, Cote would say of her big night on the boards, "We know how physical they are and we were determined not to let them intimidate us."

Minnechaug fell to 5-1, 0-1 in the Valley Wheel, in which Agawam now has the lead.

BROWNIE STATS: Malone — 15 points (4-10 fgs, 7-9 fts, 5 rebs, 1 off, 2 steals); Bertone-Gross — 9 points (3-9 fgs, 3-5 fts, 3 rebs, 2 off); Shannon — 7 points (3-6, including a 3, 3 rebs); Cote — 6 points (3-10 fgs, 15 rebs, 5 off); Gendron — 4 points (2-8 fgs, 2 rebs, 1 off); Bucalo — 2 points (1-1 fgs, 0-1 fts, 1 off reb).

AGAWAM TOTALS: Fga - 44, Fgm - 17, including a 3 (38 percent); Fts att - 15, Fts made - 9 (60 percent); Rebounds - 31, 12 off; Turnovers - 11, points allowed off turnovers - 2.

MINNECHAUG TOTALS: Fga - 33, Fgm - 14, including two 3's (42 percent); Fts att - 10, Fts made - 7 (70 percent); Rebounds - 24, 9 off; Turnovers - 20, points allowed off to's - 6.

JV NOTES: The JV girls lost to the Minnechaug JV's, 52-40. Keegan Clark had 11 points to lead the young Brownies.



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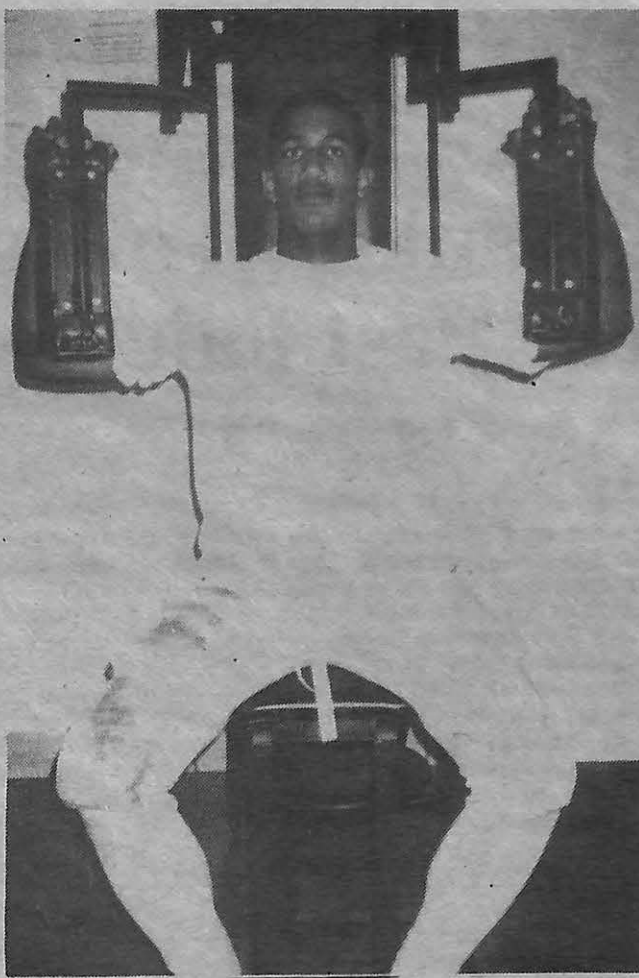
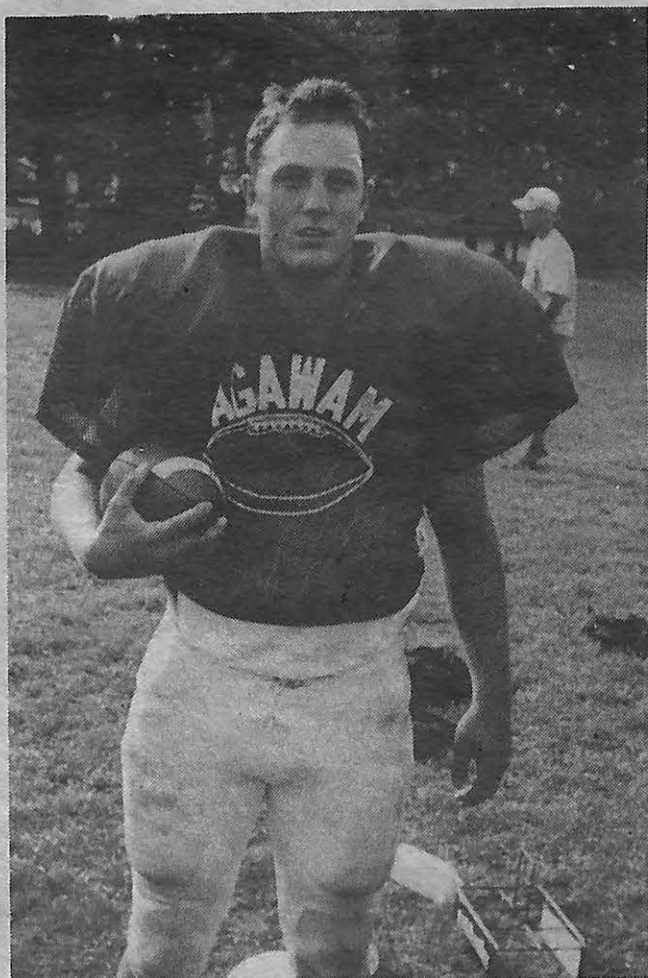
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AHS SENIORS Brian Gallagher and Mark Pedraza (football), and Rich Rodriguez (soccer) were named to the All-Western Mass. First Teams in their respective sports for the 1998 fall season.

Rodriguez Honorable Mention All-State...

Gallagher, Pedraza & Rodriguez All First Team All-Western Mass.

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

Two members of the Agawam High football team made the All-Western Mass. squad based on their performances this past fall - seniors Brian Gallagher and Mark Pedraza. Both were named to the All-Western Mass. defensive team. Soccer players Rich Rodriguez and Brian Lopes were All-Western Mass. selections as well, with Rodriguez making the first team as a sweeper. Gallagher was a first team selection as a linebacker. He had 31 solo tackles and 52 overall, plus an interception for the Brownies, who finished the year at 4-6.

Gallagher, who ran for 929 yards last season, was again a productive fullback, with over 600 yards rushing despite missing two whole games and part of the opener against Greenfield when he suffered a shoulder separation.

"I had some high standards set for myself this year. The shoulder problem took some of it away, but just playing was great," the 6'3", 225-pound, two-way player noted. Gallagher has some major surgery on the horizon. This week, he'll enter Mercy Hospital, where the doctors will repair the shoulder. "I'll have to stay overnight. They've told me I'll need six months of rehab to get back in shape. I can do it," he added.

Gallagher plans to attend prep school, perhaps at Wilbraham-Monson Academy. "I need to get my

grades up a bit," he admitted. About his football future, he had this to say: "I love playing defense, so being picked on the All-Western Mass. defensive team was okay for me. I think with hard work, I can take my game to the next level."

Gallagher, named as the team's most outstanding senior, was also a member of the AA Conference All-Star Team.

Pedraza (6'1", 210 pounds) made the team as a defensive end and outside linebacker. He was a second team selection last year. This season, besides playing tight end, he also got some playing time at fullback, replacing the injured Gallagher. "I'd never played that position, but the experience was good for me. Defense, though, is where I like to play," he said.

Pedraza enjoyed the trenches. At almost every practice, you'd see him working out with the linemen. "I love that," he smiled. "They work hard at what they do."

Pedraza is also a basketball captain and a member of the AA All-Conference football team as well as an All-Star on the track team. He has four schools in mind; James Madison, UMass, Springfield College, and Sacred Heart in Bridgeport, Connecticut. "Academically, I should

be able to hold my own at any of those places. Hopefully, football will also be in my future," he said.

Outgoing football Coach Dean Vecchiarelli noted that Pedraza is a hard worker who spends a lot of hours in the weight room to improve his strength.

Rodriguez, a four-year starter and a captain on the AHS boys' soccer team, was also named as an All-State honorable mention this year.

"Rich is an outstanding marker back," JV boys' Coach Glenn Olsen said. "He usually took the toughest offensive player on the other team and did very well."

"I've played soccer since I can remember. The skills of the game are fascinating to me," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez is a computer whiz and would like to pursue a career in that field. He didn't have any goals or assists this year, but his value was at the defensive end of the field and was seen game in and game out.

Agawam junior Brian Lopes made second team All-Western Mass. The slippery forward had nine goals and six assists.

Girls' Hoop vs Chicopee...

Pacers Present No Problems As Brownies Swarm To Easy Win

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

It was another day at the office for the Agawam High girls' basketball (6-0) team over the holidays. They hosted Chicopee High and soundly trounced the Pacers, 55-27.

One of the aspects of the Agawam girls is their defense. People talk about the scoring punch of Barbara Maloni. But Maloni (22 points and 30.5 average), along with Pia Bertone-Gross, Melissa Cote, and a bunch of other ball hawks, swoop in and disrupt the opposition's offense.

Witness the fact that in the first half alone, Chicopee had 15 turnovers and 25 for the game. The Brownies would score 16 points off those mistakes. Also, from the 12:17 mark to 8:27 of the first half, the Pacers did not have a field goal. When they finally canned one, Agawam was up 19-5 and it was essentially over.

With two minutes left, the Brownies were 9-26 from the field, which isn't that great, but Chicopee was only 2-12. The Agawam 'D' just wasn't allow-

ing them to shoot.

Agawam Coach Lou Conte put it into perspective. "We have an excellent club at both ends of the court. But there will probably come a day when we'll have the same shooting problem that Chicopee had tonight."

The half ended 29-11, Agawam.

Just As Aggressive

Agawam was just as aggressive in the second 16 minutes as it had been for the duration of the first half. Again, Chicopee was frustrated, shooting 7-27. It had to be particularly vexing for the visitors, considering they had 12 offensive boards. The hoop, for them at least, just had a lid on it.

At the 7:08 mark, Agawam was shooting 7-13 from the field. Chicopee was 2-13. Bad luck and an Agawam defense were doing in the Pacers. By then, the starters were out. Liz Steig, Laura Bucalo, and Jill Gendron (coming off a 19-point effort vs. Amherst Regional), all sophomores, were

in along with juniors Sheri Benton and Jen Lyman. One thing about Conte - he won't run it up. Teams here in Western Mass. have long memories.

Chicopee did try a semi-comeback with 1:30 to go. But by then, it was 51-37, Agawam, and they were already penning the game into the record book with the Brownies coming up on the left-hand side of the ledger.

Agawam then went on to play Taconic High last Saturday at home, winning by a wide margin - 74-37. Maloni had 32 points, Conte added 13, as did Bertone-Gross.

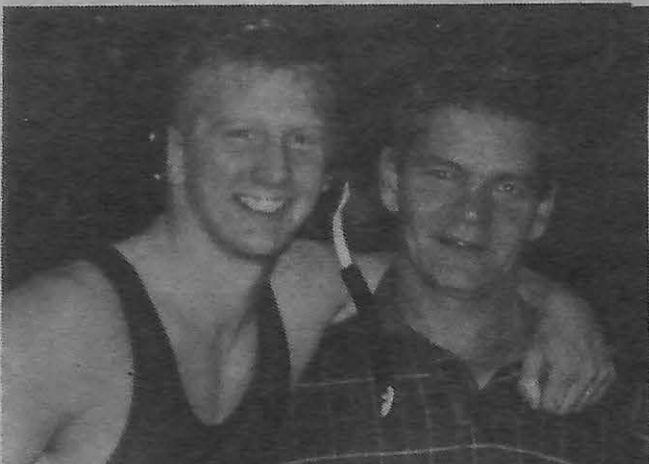
AGAWAM STATS VS. CHICOPEE: Maloni - 22 points (7-13 fgs, 8-10 fts, 4 off, 1 block); Bertone-Gross - 10 points (4-9 fgs, 2-2 fts, 4 rebs, 1 off); Cote - 6 points (3-5, 0-2 fts, 3 rebs, 1 off); Gendron - 4 points (2-6 fgs, 0-2 fts); Lyman - 4 points (2-2 fgs, 0-1 fts, 1 reb); Bucalo - 3 points (1-7 fgs, 1-2 fts, 6 rebs, 5 off); Tierney - 2 points (0-3 fgs, 2-2 fts, 3 off rebs); Benton - 2 points (1-2 fgs, 0-1 fts, 2 rebs, 1 off).

As Usual, AHS Wrestling Likes Home Cooking At Christmas Tourney

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

One of the best things in high school sports, other than hosting your own tournament, is winning it as well.

This is exactly what the Agawam High wrestling team did over the holidays at their annual Christmas get-together up at the High School. The defending Western Mass. champs beat a field of eight teams, which included Division III champion Southwick-Tolland Regional (second place) and Division II power Quabbin Regional (third).



ADAM BLAIR and COACH PHIL TOMKIEL were all smiles after Blair won the 152-pound division at the Annual Holiday Wrestling Tournament.

The locals did it the way they always do it - with a show of strength in just about every weight class. Things were tough in the 103's, however, where sophomore **Brian Cote** lost in an early round match to Pittsfield's Tom Van Riper.

All-Western Mass. star **Dave Moore** was the top guy in the 112's. Moore, who has two qualities all wrestlers pray for, speed and the belief that you can't lose, pinned his way to the finals then beat Southwick's Kevin Tingley, 8-3, once he got there.

Boys' Hoop Vs Central...

Strole Plays Well But Brownies No Match For Central

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

The Agawam High boys' basketball team is up against it. They lost Tuesday night to fall to 2-4. The opponent was powerful Central High. The final was 81-45.

The Brownies have been hurt in the roster department. Forward Matt Albano is out with an ankle sprain. Junior guard Joe Divirgilio left the team for personal reasons, leaving Coach Gary Grumoli with only eight active varsity players. "Yeah, we're a little short right now. We'll get through it," he said.

Lou Conte has stepped in for Albano. "He's upped his level of play," Grumoli said of the sophomore. He also mentioned that senior Eric Bodurtha has stepped up. He's a quality kid and is giving us quality minutes," the coach noted.

One person who is doing a great job is center and co-captain Dave Strole. The 6'5" senior popped in 21 points against Central and has taken over a big part of the leadership role, averaging 19 points and seven rebounds a game.

"Dave keeps getting better. I think when he took over in the second half of our win over Greenfield (26 points) after we were going nowhere, that gave him the confidence he needed," said Grumoli. The coach also noted that senior forward Marc Pedraza is playing well.

"The adversity we're facing now will help us down the road," Grumoli noted. They next play this Friday, at home against Commerce.

The JV boys lost to Central, as well.

We open weekdays at 6:30 a.m. Deadline is Tuesday noon.

"Yeah, I know Kevin (Tingley). He's a tough wrestler. But I figured I could handle him," Moore smiled as he looked over the draw.

Agawam Placed Four Others In The Finals

Besides Moore, Agawam placed four other wrestlers in the finals. Only Southwick had beaten that number with seven. The Rams, however, had some problems in the money round. Also, they didn't enter a wrestler in three of the weight classes, which hurt a lot.

"You have to go into the finals in force to do well. We have been able to do that over the years," said Brownie Coach Phil Tomkiel, who is retiring this season after 25 years.

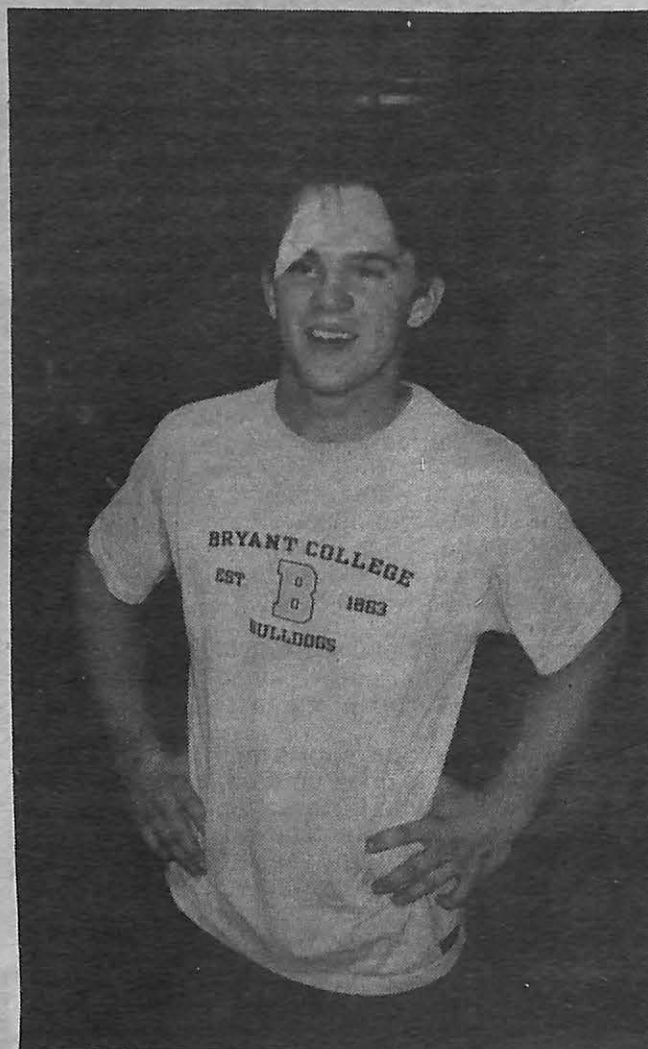
Senior veteran **Rob Creanza** was victorious in the 119's, shooting and pinning Southwick's Ernie Lempke with 50 seconds to go in the first period. The Brownies surfaced in the 135's, where senior **Chris Wayte**, after two wins, met Southwick's Curt Despard. The Ram went down, 9-6, in a match that saw Wayte, another Agawam veteran, use his experience to beat the sophomore.

Another AHS All-Western Mass. performer, **Mark Engleman**, was up in the 145 finals. The Brownie senior stormed through his weight class and pinned Sci-Tech's Chris Harlow 50 seconds into the second period of their match.

Adam Blair was up next in the 152's. The senior, another All-Western Mass. selection last year, had a tough guy to contend with - Sci-Tech junior Amaad Rivera. It was a war before Blair managed to pin his opponent at the 3:45 mark.

The last Brownie in the finals was 189-pounder **Justin Petrangelo**. The senior pinned his way through the meet, with his final win by a pin coming against sophomore Rich Wilder of Franklin Tech with 1:46 gone in the first period.

WRESTLING NOTES: After their meet, Agawam was off for a Saturday meeting at the Durfee Tournament, another big venue in the high school wrestling scene. They beat the hosts, 41-25, lost to a powerful Lowell team (just barely), 36-33, and also fell to St. John's Prep of Danvers, 42-30.



MARK ENGLEMAN stormed through the 145-pound division at the Holiday Wrestling Tournament hosted by AHS.

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Profile...

AHS Hockey Player Andy Radwanski Sets Goals For The Future

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

Andy Radwanski has been a feature player on the Agawam High hockey team for quite awhile. Recently, the senior forward took some time out to talk about himself and his time at AHS.

Andy is 17 years-old. He'll turn 18 May 24th. He's 5'10" and 160 pounds - a good weight for his position on the hockey team.

He has been at AHS for the past four years. Currently, he is taking math, physics, and two computer courses. He has been a member of the Renaissance Club all four years. It's an organization for students at the school who have maintained a grade point average of 85 or above.

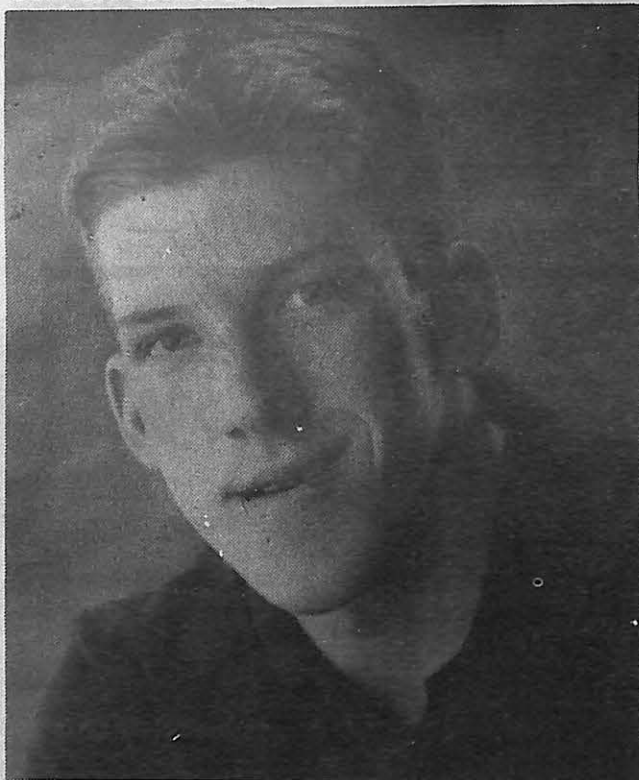
His favorite course is multimedia. "I really like playing with computers. I've been working on them for my entire time here," he said. His top teacher is Russell Ramah, who is the head of the school's Computer Department.

Andy is headed for WNEC. He hopes to major in either computers or accounting. He'll give hockey a try as well.

Right now, all he plays is hockey at AHS. "I've been playing the game since I was four years-old," he noted. He is a four-year starter for the Brownies.

His most memorable sports moment came as a freshman. "I was teamed up on the same line as my brother, Matt, who is now a junior at Assumption College in Worcester," he said.

His take on the current season goes like this: "We need to work more on defense. But we are very intense on offense. That's why we're 3-3-1 (presstime)." The Brownies have given up 35 goals but have scored 37.



ANDY RADWANSKI

Andy's favorite food is cookies and milk. "Any kind of cookies and a big glass of milk will do it for me," he smiled.

Green is his favorite color.

His top car is a Jeep Wrangler. "I own a '93. It's got a convertible top. It's great," he said.

His top sports star is retired hockey great Mario Lemieux, formerly of the Pittsburgh Penguins. He'll kick back and relax at any of his friends' houses. His top friend is another Agawam High hockey player, Tony Kosinski.

His taste in clothes runs to t-shirts, corduroys, and sandals. Why sandals? "My family has a place down at the Cape in Dennisport. We go there during the summer and that's what you wear on your feet down there," he explained.

His rock group is a band called 'Phish.' "They're an upgraded group which has a sound of the 1980's," he said.

"The Simpsons" is his favorite TV show. "Billy Madison" is his favorite flick.

Carol is his mom. Paul is his dad.

He has one brother - Matt.

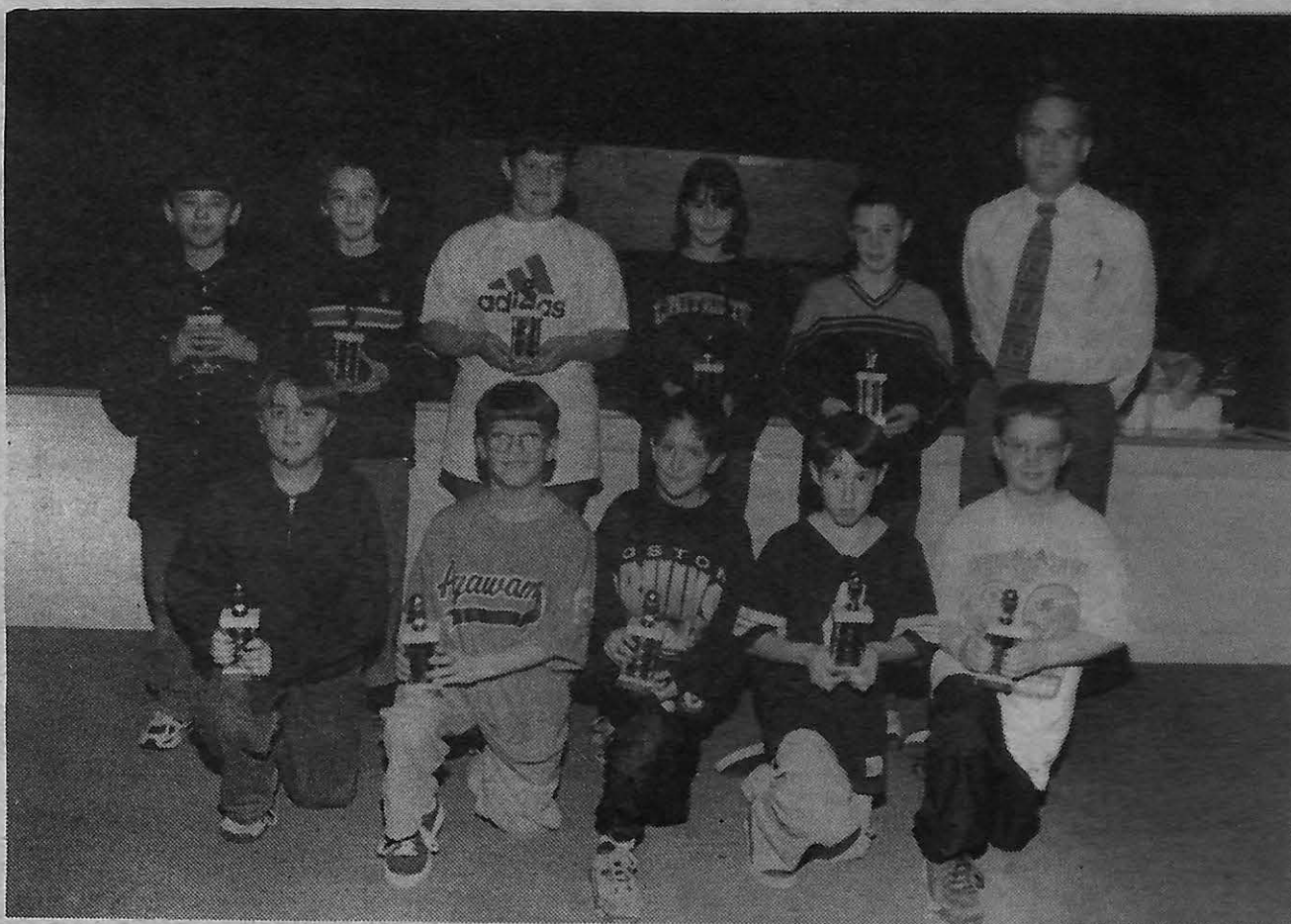
He says he looks up to Matt because he has always been there for him.

He has one thing to say about his career at AHS. "I'd like to be remembered as a captain of the hockey team. I think that's important, considering all the outstanding players we have."

Coach Fran Pycko has said this many times in interviews when talking about Andy. "He's a tough kid who hates to lose."

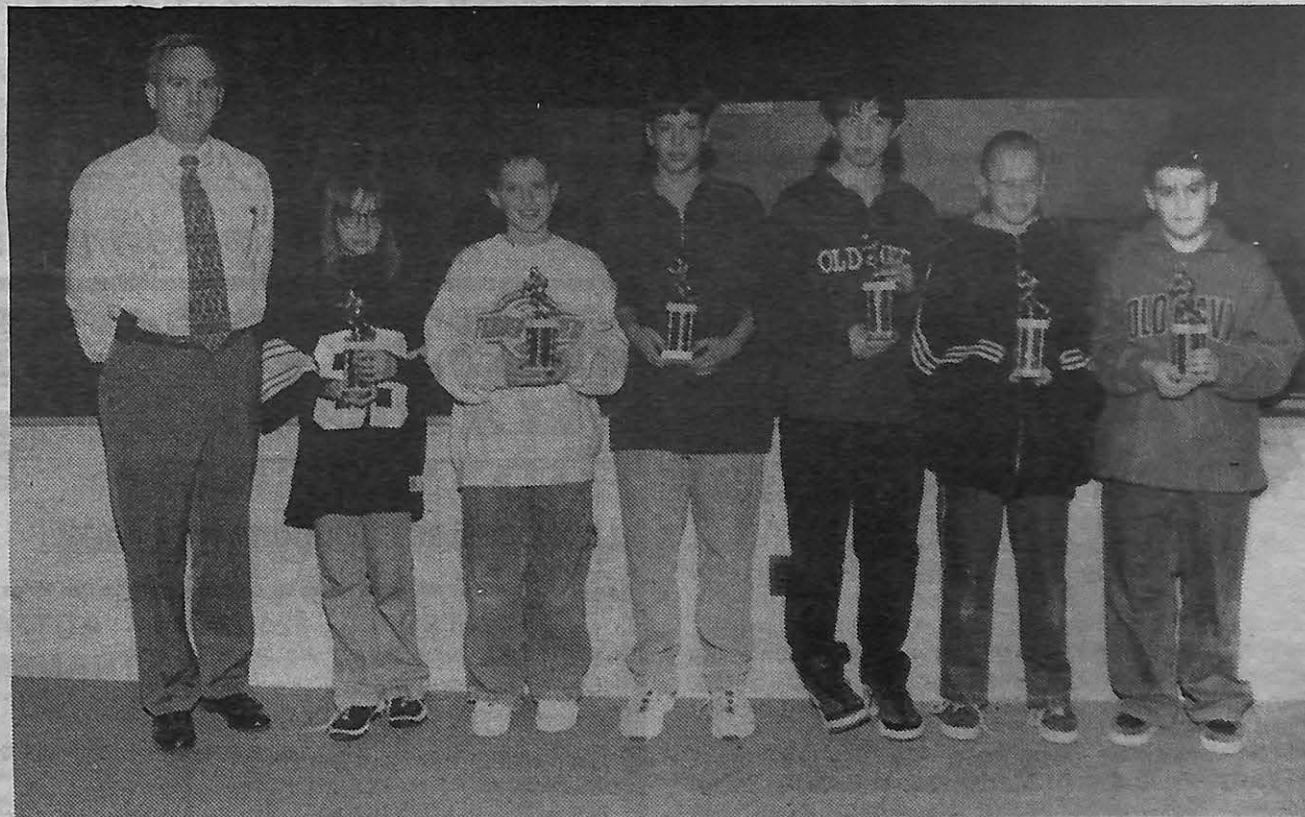
At presstime, Andy has two goals and an assist.

Homeroom Soccer Champs At Middle School



UNDER COACH KIM MIARECKI, Homeroom 203 at Agawam Middle School was recently named the homeroom soccer champ. Front row: Andrew Drozdal, Kevin Danie, Andrew Johnson, Stephen Smith, and Joshua Matt. Back row: Ryan Kocot, William Parr, Lindsay Pafumi, Christina Davis, Brendan Ennis, and Vice-Principal Louis Conte. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Flag Football Champs At The Middle School



CONGRATULATIONS TO Homeroom 301 (under Coach Carol Orsatti) for becoming the flag football champions at Agawam Middle School. From left to right: Vice-Principal Louis Conte, Kris Hatfield, Andrew King, Andrew Wakelee, Brandon Dean, David Boss, and Adam Ceccarini. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

New Ski Privilege Book Available From American Lung Association Of Western Mass.

The American Lung Association of Western Massachusetts has unveiled its new and improved "Ski Privilege Book" for the 1998-99 ski season, offering free and discounted skiing at over a dozen ski resorts in Western Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New Hampshire. Discounts are also available at eight area ski shops on ski merchandise and ski tune-ups.

For \$39, the holder of the "Ski Privilege Book" can ski one time at each resort either free or at a discount, Monday through Friday. The book includes free pass deals, buy-one-get-one-free deals, and other discounts on ski passes and merchandise.

Participating Western Massachusetts ski areas are: Berkshire East, Blandford, Bousquet, Butternut, Catamount, Jiminy Peak, Otis Ridge, and Wachusett Mountain. Participating Connecticut

and New Hampshire areas are: Mt. Southington, Powder Ridge, Mohawk Mountain, Woodbury, Cedar Brook, and Black Mountain Ski Area.

Discounts on merchandise and tune-ups are available in Western Massachusetts at the Colorado Ski Outlet, Competitive Edge, Wildwater Outfitters, and the Ski-In. Other discounts are available at Connecticut shops as well.

One-hundred percent of funds raised through the "Ski Privilege Book" will help the American Lung Association of Western Massachusetts' community education and research programs in Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin, and Berkshire Counties.

For more information or to order the "Ski Privilege Book," please call the American Lung Association at (413) 737-3506 or 800-LUNG-USA.

All the local sports with us, every week...

Extra, Extra, Read All About It...

The Latest News And Notes From Tri-Parish Bowling

Because *The Agawam Advertiser News* doesn't publish between Christmas and New Year's, we are going to "ring in" 1999 by providing the fans of the Tri-Parish Bowling League with an overview of three weeks' worth of action on the local lanes.

As of Monday, December 14th, Boston College remained in first place with a record of 13-3, even though its team members didn't particularly shine on this night. They managed only a 2-2 tie with Catholic University (7-9).

Second-place St. Mary's (10-6) also wound up splitting two games apiece with its competition, last-place Notre Dame (6-10). Actually, there was a three-way tie for the cellar on this particular evening: St. Louis and St. Michael's had chalked up lowly records of 6-10, too (though, to give credit where credit is due, St. Mike's did demolish St. Lou's, 4-0).

Meanwhile, Georgetown (9-7) outperformed Fordham (8-8), 3-1, and Holy Cross (7-9) got the better of St. Anselm's (8-8), 3-1.

For the men, BILL "Black And Blue" GRAY led with a 144 single string and a 387 triple string, followed by RON "The Don" MENARD (136 single, 366 triple), "Jolly" OLLY MULDER (141, 359), GLEN "Not Sam" ADAMS (129, 358), "Jungle" JIM MCCORMACK (116, 343), SEAN "Not Conner" O'BRIEN (121, 335), and FRANK "The Tank" CERPOVICZ (118, 324).

"Testy" BETSY CANNON (159 single string, 370 triple string) was the ladies' leading roller, and other impressive performances were turned in by "The Mighty" DEB POIRIER (114 single, 326 triple), "Go With The" FLO ROCHFORD (119, 319), JAN "Not The Man" FULLER (102, 299), CORI "Not Lori" NAPOLITAN (114, 293), MAYBETH "Miss Consistent" COUGHLIN (113, 293), and MARSHA "Not Brady" DOBIE (96, 280).

Four days before Christmas (Monday, December 21st), first-place Boston College (17-3) had reason to partake of some early yuletide celebrating, thanks to its 4-0 shellacking of Georgetown (9-11).

Actually, a great deal of shellacking took place on the Tri-Parish lanes on this night: St. Louis (10-10) clobbered St. Anselm's (8-12), 4-0; Notre Dame (10-10) trounced the sole occupant of last place, St. Michael's (6-14), 4-0; Holy Cross (11-9) defeated Fordham (8-12), 4-0; and St. Mary's (13-7) managed to hold on to second place as a result of its 3-1 victory over Catholic University (8-12).

RON "The Don" MENARD was the pre-Christmas leader for the men, courtesy of his 154 single string and 391 triple string. DON "Don't Sit On" STITT was impressive with his 137 single and 364 triple, and memorable performances were also given by "Jungle" JIM MCCORMACK (138, 361), BILL "Black And Blue" GRAY (134, 358), GLEN "Not Sam" ADAMS (115, 343), "Scary" LARRY VIENS (140, 323), and "Jolly" Ollly Muldrew (121, 318).

"Go With The" FLO ROCHFORD (129 single string, 382 triple string) was the queen of the lanes on December 21st, and her runners-up were JAN "Not The Man" FULLER (141 single, 342 triple),

Black Shadow Co-Champs In Girls U10



THE BLACK SHADOW U10 girls' soccer team were the 1998 champs for the Agawam Soccer Association. The team sported a record of 10-0-2 and allowed only eight goals all year. Team members, back row, from left - Kim Hurley, Lisa Marsh, and Tony Bryant. Middle row - Caitlin Hurley, Nicole Witaszek, Leah Marsh, Carly Keely, Nichole Diduk, and Kayla Bryant. Front row - Emily Baker, Lisa Lemire, Mackenzie Cassidy, Sarah Reutt, and Lisa Carney.

"Testy" BETSY CANNON (114, 320), MARY "Not Tyler Moore" THOMAS (107, 296), "The Mighty" DEB POIRIER (102, 289), CORI "Not Lori" NAPOLITAN (103, 283), and "Juicy" LUCY MENARD (95, 276).

With the new year just a four days away, Boston College (20-4) managed to leave 1998 on a high note by holding onto first place by a comfortable margin over St. Mary's (17-7).

On Monday, December 28th, BC defeated St. Anselm's (9-15) by 3-1; St. Mary's definitely had fun at the expense of the ever-lowly St. Michael's (6-18), 4-0; Fordham (11-13) beat Catholic University (9-15), 3-1; Holy Cross (13-11) and Georgetown (11-13) split their contest at 2-2; and St. Louis (14-10) spoiled New Year's Eve for Notre Dame (10-14), 4-0.

RON "The Don" MENARD proved his mettle for the second week in a row by once again taking the

top spot for the men with his 137 single string and 358 triple string. "Richy" RICH SNYDER (122 single, 347 triple) also concluded 1998 with a commendable performance on the lanes, as did BILL "Black And Blue" GRAY (120, 340), "Jungle" JIM MCCORMACK (117, 327), "Scary" LARRY VIENS (115, 316), "Luscious" LOU MULDER (117, 313), and ROGER "Rabbit" JOSEPHSON (106, 296).

"The Mighty" DEB POIRIER returned to the top of the ladies' list with her 122 single string and 325 triple string, and "Testy" BETSY CANNON managed to wind up in second for the evening with a 126 single and 323 triple.

JAN "Not The Man" FULLER deserved kudos for her performance (118, 316), as did "Lean And Mean" JEAN BUONICONTI (118, 295), MARY "Not Tyler Moore" THOMAS (104, 286), "Terrible" TERRY CERPOVICZ (100, 285), and "Sweet" CAROLINE GOELLN (100, 282).

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Outdoors New England

by Kent Servis
Outdoor Writer

Hunters Under Attack...Again

Anyone who bought the CD-ROM game Deer Hunter Avenger and thought they were getting a hunting game is in for a shock! The anti-hunters are at it again in an attempt to brainwash today's video game-oriented kids. The following press release from the Safari Club International says it all.

HUNTING GAME TARGETS PEOPLE

SCI Believes Simon and Schuster's Game Promotes Violence Against Hunters

TUCSON, Ariz. (December 29, 1998)—Shooting people who are lured to the gun, bazooka, or lethal slingshot with offers of beer, naked women, Viagra, and sounds of lovemaking is the object of publishing giant Simon and Schuster's new CD-ROM game, "Deer Hunter Avenger."

In a statement issued by Safari Club International's (SCI) President and practicing attorney Alfred "Skip" Donau, SCI has asked that the computer game "Deer Hunter Avenger" be recalled.

By mischaracterizing deer hunters as stupid, drunken womanizers and making them targets of M-16 rifles and bazookas "fired" by game players, Simon and Schuster makes a statement about the American family tradition of hunting that is wrongheaded and false, according to SCI.

"I was appalled by the promotion of violence against hunters. This is like the violence urged against abortion advocates by 'right-to-life' extremists or violence against minorities urged by neo-Nazi fanatics," said Donau.

The game-player looks for sign of a hunter's "presence" such as empty beer cans, nude magazines, and human urine in the snow, spelling "KLEM WUZ HEAR," by viewing a map of the killing grounds. The people to be shot can also be "flushed" out of the bushes with "farts."

"Drinking and hunting do not mix, and hunters pride themselves in promoting hunter safety and ethics, with most states requiring safety courses for first-time hunters," according to Donau. He continued, "References are made about marrying one's sister and a woman made 'horny' by being in the woods."

"This game should not be sold to children," said Dr. Rudy Rosen, SCI's Executive Director. "I've reviewed a number of hunting games popular with kids, and these games generally recognize hunting safety, identify lawful hunting regulations, and never link abuse of controlled

substances with hunting or allude to sex—these aren't part of hunting. Simon and Schuster calls itself 'one of the world's largest educational book publishers,' but it's promoting gutter material in this game," continued Rosen.

"Simon and Schuster claim this game is a 'parody.' If they truly believe this is just comic mischief, then the people responsible for this trash are possessed of a sick sense of humor," said Donau.

Donau and Rosen have children ranging from three to 17 years in age. As caring fathers, neither allowed their children to play with the game, which they first opened on Christmas Day, believing it too violent against people, as well as giving an utterly false picture of hunting and hunters.

With more than 32,000 members in 40 countries, Safari Club International is a worldwide charitable organization that promotes wildlife conservation and education, hunting as a wildlife management tool, and services for people in need.

NEW PRODUCTS FOR THE FISHERMAN

Gamakatsu USA, those fine people who produce some of the finest premium fish hooks that money can buy, have come out with a few new hooks to add to your tackle box. Some fishermen scoff at paying a premium price for fish hooks, but believe me, the end results are worth it.

After spending the time and money for a day on the water, the business end of your fishing tackle is the least expensive and, perhaps, the most important factor.

With the spring striper run in the Connecticut River just a few more months away, it's time to think about getting ready. Live herring are the preferred offering for big stripers in the river. The new 4x octopus hook is just the answer.

Originally designed for use by Striper fishermen, Gamakatsu's 4x Strong Octopus or "Offshore" hook has far-ranging applications for the saltwater angler.

This hook features a straight ring eye, and a shank just a little longer than the standard octopus hook for larger baits. It also has a dangerously sharp offset beak point for fast penetration.

Ideal for large live baits and chunk baits, it is available in 1/0 through 10/0 with a Nickel Silver Black finish.

Made of 4x strong, high-carbon steel and forged for added strength, this hook will handle everything from Striped Bass to Striped Marlin.

For information on Gamakatsu products, call Kent Servis at (413) 789-1343, or the SPRO Corporation at (770) 919-1722.

SAFETY FIRST

With the recent cold wave, ice is forming on many of the area ponds. After a year of almost no ice fishing, many of us are chomping at the bit to get going. A recent tragedy at Lake Garfield is a sobering reminder that enough ice to support your weight in one spot may not support it in another. Make darn sure that you are on safe ice before venturing out! Good readers are hard to come by, so be careful!

Daggett Gymnasts Enjoy Busy & Successful Month Of December

When the gymnasts at Tim Daggett Gold Medal Gymnastics flip their calendars to the month of December, they think of more than the usual festivities that this month brings, because December is the start of another gymnastics season! The John Hancock Holiday Invitational was held at South Hadley High School, and great performances were handed out by all the young ladies at the gym.

Level 10: Sarah Liebowitz opened with an 8.9 on vault (first) that helped her to a third-place finish in the all-around (31.0).

Level nine: Agawam's Brionne Lancour was her usual steady self as she ran up a string of great scores to finish second all-around with a 33.8. Andrea Babbin, also of Agawam, took the third spot (33.65), and Leah Boccaccio gathered in the fourth with a 32.9. Leah Hancock of West Suffield swung her way to a first-place finish on bars (9.0) and finished at 33.2 all-around. The level nine girls also finished second as a team with a 102.9.

Level eight: Mary Kate Zajac of Agawam came back from an injury to fight her way to a 30.45. Paula Ballentine of Shelbourne Falls finished at 31.8, and Wilbraham's Whitney Quist came in sixth with a 32.6.

Level seven: Jen Stack of Enfield opened her season with first-place finishes on balance beam (9.25) and the all-around (36.1). Kari Sullivan used a 9.2 on uneven bars to finish at 32.4, and Agawam High School's Elizabeth Clark vaulted to an 8.7 (good for second place) and her final tally was 32.6 (fifth).

Level six: Joy Higley of Suffield competed in the 13-plus age group and her 32.5 was good for the silver. Sarah Kantany's two first-place finishes on vault and bars helped her to the bronze with a 32.9. The 7-11 age group saw West Springfield's Rachel Zmuda compete to a 29.05, and first-year level six gymnast Mia Yacteen came in fourth with a 33.95. Caitlin Rantstrom of Agawam was unable to compete due to an injury.

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Agawam Piranhas Defeat Ludlow Team, 390-206

The Agawam Piranhas swim team won against the Ludlow team by a score of 390-206 on December 19th at the Agawam Junior High School. The results included:

Girls 8 & under:

The team of Stephanie Scavotta, Krystinia Albano, Taryn Dooley, and Sarah Torrey placed first in the 100-yard medley relay.

Taryn Dolley, first in 100-yard individual medley.

The team of Taryn Dooley, Mary Malone, Ashley Picard, and Krystinia Albano placed second in the 100-yard freestyle relay.

Kathryn Malone, first, and Krystinia Albano, third in 25-yard freestyle; Stephanie Scavotta, first in 50-yard freestyle; Mary Malone, third in 25-yard backstroke; and Kathryn Malone, second in 25-yard breaststroke.

Boys 8 & under:

Antonne Mathes, second in 25-yard freestyle; Patrick Skelley, first in 25-yard butterfly; Andrew Ardolino, second, and David Dominik, third in 50-yard freestyle; and Patrick Skelley, second, and Nathan Friga, third in 25-yard backstroke.

Girls 9-10:

The team of Brittany Gutowski, Tammy Gorman, Julie Gorman, and Allison Nyman placed first in the 200-yard medley relay.

Julie Gorman, first, and Tammy Gorman, second in 100-yard individual medley.

The team of Meghan Henry, Caitlin Hurley, Katelyn Iacolo, and Allison Nyman placed second in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

Angela Virella, second in 50-yard freestyle; Julie Gorman, first in 50-yard butterfly; Brittany Gutowski, first, Angela Virella, second, and Katelyn Iacolo, third in 100-yard freestyle; Brittany Gutowski, first in 50-yard backstroke; and Tammy Gorman, first, and Caitlin Hurley, second in 50-yard breaststroke.

Boys 9-10:

Adam Deliefde, second, and Joshua Barrows, third in 50-yard freestyle; Adam Deliefde, first in 100-yard freestyle; and Joshua Barrows, first in 50-yard backstroke.

Girls 11-12:

The team of Katie Gorman, Jessica Lalli, Abriana Spagnoli, and Angela Vinton placed first in the 200-yard medley relay.

Jessica Lalli, first, and Kaitlin Bond, second in 50-yard freestyle; Katie Gorman, first, and Abriana Spagnoli, second in 50-yard butterfly; Jennifer Clark, first in 100-yard freestyle; Jessica Lalli, first, and Katie Gorman, second in 50-yard backstroke; and Angela Vinton, second, and Kaitlin Bond, third in 50-yard breaststroke.

The team of Kaitlin Bond, Jennifer Clark, Abriana Spagnoli, and Angela Vinton placed first in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

Boys 11-12:

The team of Connor Dooley, Alex Bakhared, Jeffrey Lagasse, and Matthew Gendron placed first in the 200-yard medley relay.

Jeffrey Lagasse, first in 200-yard freestyle; Kyle Henry, second, and Alex Bakhared, third in 50-yard freestyle; Jeffrey Lagasse, first in 50-yard butterfly; Kyle Henry, second in 100-yard freestyle; and Matthew Gendron, first, and Connor Dooley, second in 50-yard backstroke.

The team of Matthew Gendron, Connor Dooley, Kyle Henry, and Alex Bakhared placed first in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

Girls 13-14:

Allison Morris, first in 200-yard freestyle; Daveen Macsata, first in 50-yard freestyle; Allison Morris, first in 100-yard butterfly; Daveen Macsata, first, and Brittany Theriaque, second in 100-yard freestyle; and Brittany Theriaque, first in 100-yard backstroke.

Boys 13-14:

The team of Michael Lalli, Jason St. George, David Torrey, and Matthew Hayden placed first in the 200-yard medley relay.

Kyle Sullivan, first, Thomas Gorman, second, and Jason St. George, third in 200-yard individual medley; Daniel Adamski, first, Michael Lalli, second, and Steven Iacolo, third in 200-yard freestyle; Paul Lagasse, first, Jason St. George, second, and Thomas Gorman, third in 50-yard freestyle; Kyle Sullivan, first, and Matthew Hayden, second in 100-yard butterfly; David Torrey, first, and Steven Iacolo, second in 100-yard freestyle; Daniel Adamski, first, and Paul Lagasse, second in 100-yard backstroke; and David Torrey, first, and Matthew Hayden, second in 100-yard breaststroke.

The team of Kyle Sullivan, Thomas Gorman, Paul Lagasse, and Daniel Adamski placed first in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

Girls 15-18:

Kaitlin Morris, second in 50-yard freestyle.

Boys 15-18:

Nathan Adamski, first in 50-yard freestyle, and first in 100-yard butterfly.

Check our classified pages...

Agawam Parks & Rec. Dept.'s Winter Programs

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Agawam Parks and Recreation Department Office is located at Agawam High School, 760 Cooper Street (right driveway, rear entrance). Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The telephone number is 821-0514.

Cancellations and postponements will be announced on the Recreation Department recording, 821-0514. The department reserves the right to set a maximum for each class and to cancel any class due to insufficient registration.

No unregistered person may attend classes at any time. No babysitting is provided for any programs. Children must be of correct age before class begins.

INSURANCE

The Town of Agawam does not carry insurance to cover hospitalization or medical costs for anyone injured while participating in or watching any of our Parks and Recreation programs. Please note — you enter our programs at your own risk.

The Town of Agawam Parks and Recreation Department is not responsible for any personal belongings which are lost, stolen, or damaged while participating in or watching any of our activities.

ADULT PROGRAMS

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL: "Fun," recreational program began January 4th and will run for 10 weeks at GRANGER SCHOOL.

Monday, 6:45 to 8:45 p.m.; \$25/10 weeks or \$3/night.

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL: Competitive, recreational program began January 7th and will run for eight weeks at the AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL.

Thursday, 8:00 to 10:00 p.m.; \$20/eight weeks or \$3/night.

CO-ED VOLLEYBALL: Competitive, recreational program began January 7th and will run for eight weeks at the AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL.

Thursday, 8:00 to 10:00 p.m.; \$20/eight weeks or \$3/night.

DROP-IN BASKETBALL: Supervised drop-in basketball program for RESIDENTS ONLY at the AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL. Participants must be 18 years or older. Proof of age and residency is required for admittance to the program.

Monday and Wednesday, 8:00 to 10:00 p.m.; \$2/night.

Registration for Women's, Men's, and Co-Ed Volleyball was accepted the first night of the program at the gyms. Registration for Drop-In Basketball is not necessary. The drop-in fee is payable to the site supervisor per visit.

FAMILY PROGRAMS

RECREATIONAL SWIM: Public swim will be held at the AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL POOL through May.

Monday, 7:00 to 8:45 p.m.; \$2 (six years and up), \$1 (under six years).

Disposable diapers or floatation devices are not allowed in the pool. Children under 12 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.

FALCONS' NIGHT: To be announced (watch for detailed flyers in February).

YOUTH PROGRAMS

YOUTH SWIM LESSONS: The six-week swim lesson program will be offered at the AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL POOL on Saturdays beginning January 23rd. Participants must bring their own bathing suit and towel. Water Safety Instructor: Jennifer Cunningham.

11:00 to 11:30 a.m., Parent & Tot (six months to two years, nine months). Limit: 15 pairs.

11:35 to 12:15 p.m., Pre-School (two years, nine months to four years). Limit: 12 students.

12:20 to 1:20 p.m., Levels 1 & 2 (five years and up). Limit: 15 students.

1:25 to 2:25 p.m., Levels 2 through 5 (five years and up). Limit: 15 students.

The fee is \$25, and registration will be accepted at the Recreation Office, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., beginning Monday, January 11th.

BOYS' LACROSSE: Boys in grades five through eight will learn the fundamentals of the game. The team will participate in the Western New England Youth Lacrosse League and has been been invited to play in the Annual Paul Bowers Youth Lacrosse Tournament in Somers, CT.

The program will meet Monday through Thursday evening from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the Junior High School football field beginning in mid-April and running through early June. The fee is \$45, and participants must provide their own equipment.

The coaches will be Bob Young, Nick St. George, and Kevin Quinn (among others). Registration is now being accepted at the Recreation Office.

For more information, call Bob Young at 786-8995.

GIRLS' LACROSSE: Any girl in grades five through eight who is interested in forming a league is asked to call the Recreation Office at 821-0514. Any adult interested in coaching/assisting is also asked to call.

HIGH SCHOOL DROP-IN BASKETBALL: Supervised drop-in basketball program for Agawam students in grades nine through 12 only at the JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL beginning January 25th.

Participants must show school I.D. card for admittance. Parental permission is needed for participants under 18 years of age. Grant of Permission forms are available at the Recreation Office.

Monday, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.; \$2 per night.

PERRY LANE NURSERY SCHOOL Open House: To be held at Perry Lane Nursery School on Wednesday, January 27th, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. (Snow date: Friday, January 29th, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.)

Registration: To be held at the Recreation Office on Wednesday, February 3rd, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. (Snow date: Thursday, February 4th, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.)

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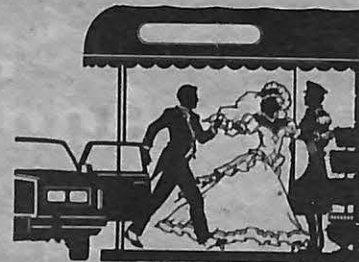
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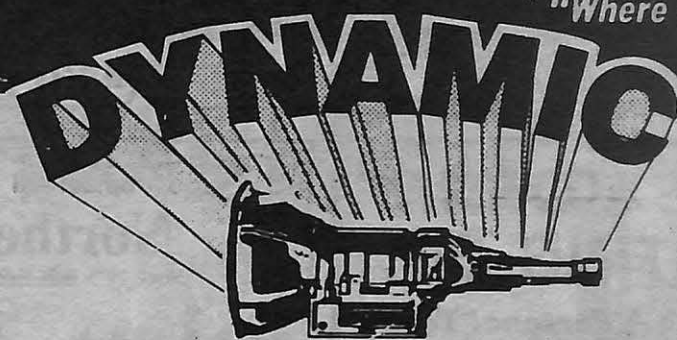


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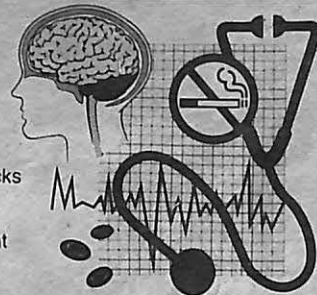
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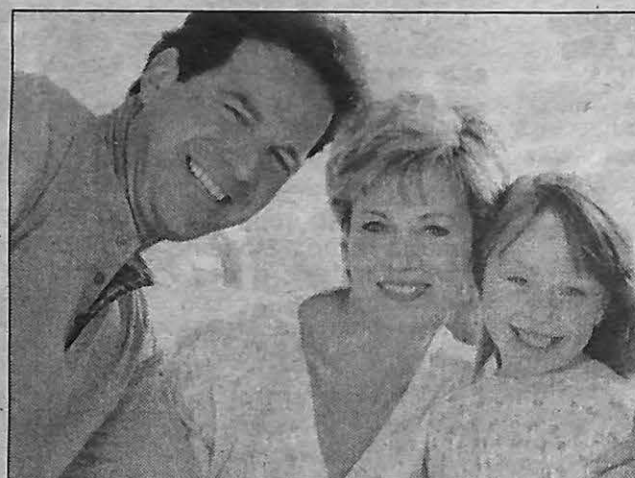
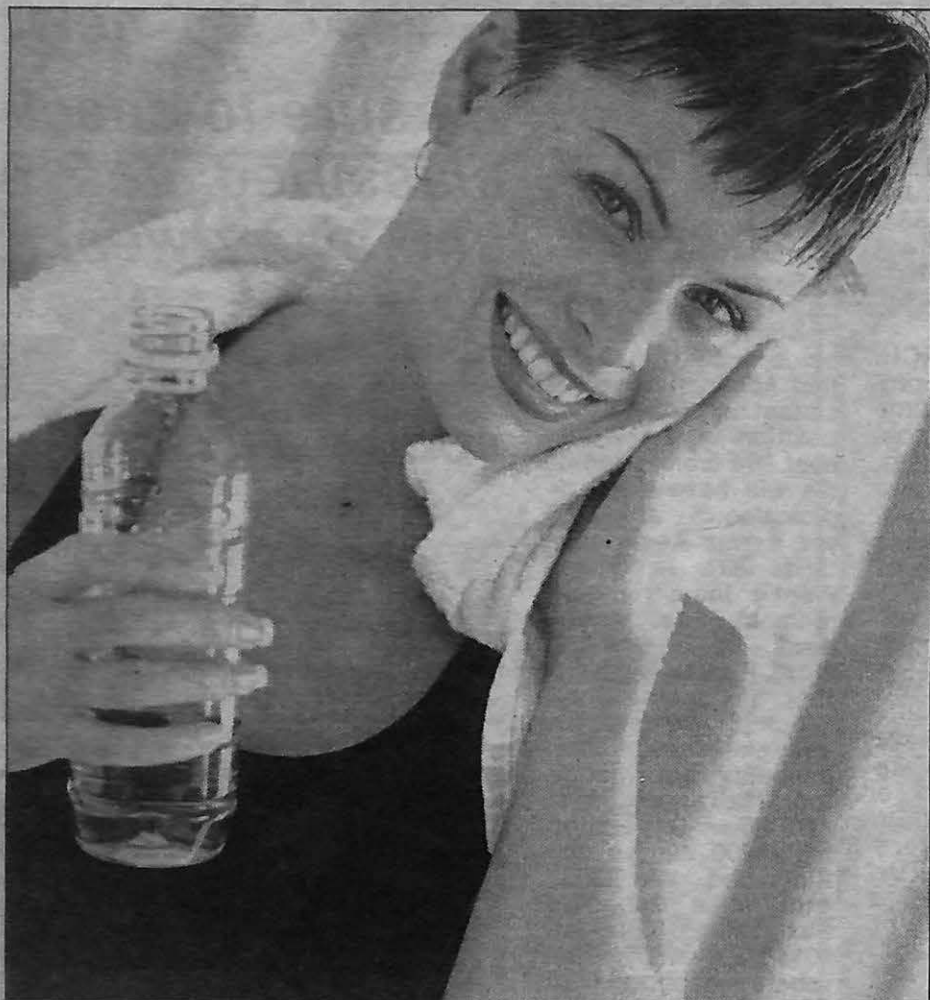
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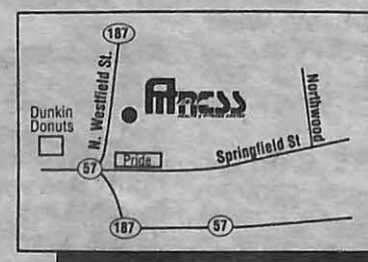
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